

# Florida

Wakulla Wildlife Oasis  
Richloam Fish Hatchery

*Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation*

# WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY 1966

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS





# Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

## FLORIDA'S RAREST BIRD - or is it EXTINCT?



### IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

AT RIGHT - COMPARED WITH ITS LOOK-ALIKE COUSIN THE COMMON PILEATED WOODPECKER • NOTE WHITE IN THE WINGS OF THE IVORY-BILL WHEN AT REST • PERSONS CERTAIN THEY HAVE SEEN AN IVORY-BILL AND NOT A PILEATED SHOULD NOTIFY THEIR LOCAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER OR THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY, MAITLAND, FLORIDA • TO SURVIVE, THESE BIRDS NEED PROTECTION FROM THE GUN AND MANAGED FOREST SANCTUARIES

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



# Florida WILDLIFE

VOL. 19 NO. 9

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★

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## The Cover

*The Limpkin, seldom seen outside of Florida, is a friendly resident of the Wakulla Springs National Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, a short drive south from Tallahassee. See page 14.*

Color Photo By Les Line, National Audubon Society

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ROSE  TALLAHASSEE

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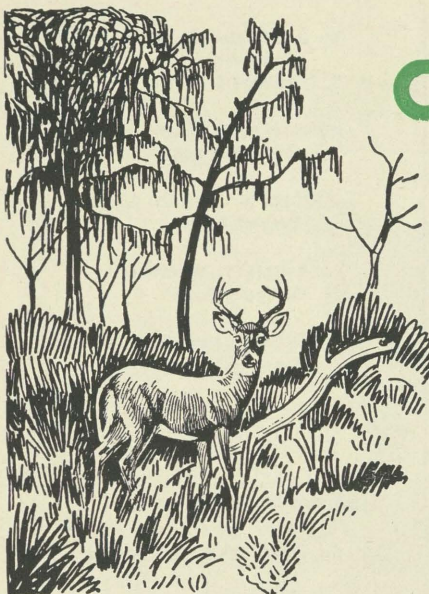
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# CONSERVATION SCENE

## Collier County Conservancy Plans Nature Preserve

**A** FLORIDA PARK BOARD historic plaque at the site near Tallahassee where Christmas was first celebrated in America, taken down when U. S. 27 was four-laned, was rededicated in time for Christmas, 1965.

State Parks Director Bill Miller related that the plaque marks the site where Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and some 600 men spent the fall and winter of 1539-40.

Miller noted that since 12 priests accompanied the Spaniards, it is generally believed that the first Christmas service in the New World was celebrated here.

The marker is located on the edge of the highway, near what was once the Indian Village of Anhayea on Lake Jackson.

Ney Landrum, director of the State Outdoor Recreational Planning Committee, pointed out that the Committee is now negotiating to purchase the property from private owners to be turned over to the State Park Board.

Landrum said the Committee is trying to obtain 120 acres covering the historic site, which would be turned into a "full-fledged state park with both historical and recreational value."

If this is not possible, perhaps 16 to 20 acres of the site can be purchased, Landrum said.

FLORIDA'S Collier County has recognized its bountiful wildlife resources and is making plans to assure them in the future.

The County, a portion of the famous Ten Thousand Islands region, has developed plans for establishing a nature preserve in one of its densely-forested and water-abundant plots.

Led by the efforts of a group called the Collier County Conservancy, the area residents have filed a purchase agreement for 1,600 acres in nearby Rookery Bay region, south of Naples.

The original investment of the Conservancy was \$30,000 toward the \$300,000 purchase price. The remaining \$270,000 is to be collected during the group's two and one-half year lease option.

An affiliate of the Nature Conservancy, a national organization, the county Conservancy was formed last year when it waged a successful campaign to have county commissioners abandon a proposal to dredge and fill a causeway across Rookery Bay.

The area estuary, a region where salt and fresh waters mix, underwent study by the Florida Department of Conservation and Collier County conservation officials meeting with University of Miami technicians as well as other experts. The findings revealed that areas such as Rookery Bay are the "nursery grounds" for the whole complex and delicate chain of life in the sea.

Economically this means millions of dollars to sports and commercial fishing and to recreational boating. It permits the maintenance of the buffer zone between fresh and salt water that is lost

through bulkheading and the digging of sea level canals and waterways.

Reenacting an age-old ceremony of land transfer, Gene Parker, vice-president of the Stone & Webster Service Corporation, representing the sellers, broke a twig from a gumbo-limbo tree and picked up a handful of sand which he transferred to the hands of Charles Draper, president, and other officials of the Conservancy.

A fund raising drive is being planned to pay off the remaining 270,000 on the option, necessary to acquire title and assure permanent stewardship of the land.

### Youth Conservation League

HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK State Park was the site of a recent Florida Youth Conservation League camporee. Boys and girls from throughout the state enjoyed exploring the beautiful hardwood hammock and were given an unusual opportunity—that of seeing wild white-tailed deer at close quarters.

Much appreciated interest in the Youth Conservation League was shown at the Florida Wildlife Federation's annual meeting. The Federation adopted the resolution—"Realizing the vital need for youth conservation education: the Florida Wildlife Federation will support and implement the work of the Adult Advisory Council, Inc. in expanding and improving the Florida Youth Conservation Club League. The Federation will stimulate state-wide interest toward the establishment of youth conservation clubs, and toward

*(continued on page 32)*



## Many Firearms Laws

### For Gun Handlers

IS IT LEGAL to ship a shotgun to a friend in another state? What about a handgun? Ammunition?

Sooner or later, says the National Shooting Sports Foundation, almost every sportsman will run up against questions like these. And if you don't know the answers, warns the Foundation, you may be in danger of breaking the law.

There are roughly 20,000 federal, state, county and city firearms laws. Anybody who handles firearms should know the laws of his own state and those covered by the Federal Firearms and National Firearms acts.

For complete information on your state laws, check your state or local police. Federal laws are explained in five government publications, three of which are free:

—Firearms Law Enforcement Guides. No. 399 (Rev. 4-65)

—National Firearms Act and Federal Firearms Act. No. 364 (Rev. 3-64)

—Interstate Traffic in Firearms and Ammunition. (Fed. Firearms Act) Part 177 of Title 26. No. 417 (Rev. 1-65)

These may be obtained by writing: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, U. S. Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Two other publications may be ordered from: Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. These are:

—Machine Guns and Certain Other Firearms. (Nat. Firearms Act) Part 179 of Title 26. No. 232 (Rev. 1-63) .15¢

—Disposition of Seized Personal Property. Part 172 of Title 26. No. 348 (Rev. 10-63) .10¢

In order to get the correct publications, sportsmen are advised to use the complete listing when ordering publications. ●

## Human Affinity With

# Elements of the Earth

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE recreation signifies some form of sport or relaxation, to other millions it has become a commercialized means of livelihood, and more recently to science, the recreationist has become an organism for study. The recreationist's habits, desires and range of habitat now are being observed with the same interest as a new and multiplying amoeba.

Federal and state resource agencies—with increasing concern and sometimes dismay—have long watched this multiplication without too much outside attention until the past few years. They have struggled alone with the problem; the recreationist is not a new phenomenon to them, and not always delightful.

Those in research are taking off on different tangents with a variety of conclusions. Some feel that the recreationist has such a mass impact that what he wants he should have, regardless of consequences. Others are alarmed at the lack of basic interest in esthetics which is manifest by the now thundering herd.

In attempting an objective look it must be realized, distasteful as it is, that our personal likes and dislikes are not the same. We defend our own preferences and are astonished with the peculiar attitudes of others. For example, camping is no longer a primitive form of recreation or an escape from civilization. A majority of campers encumber themselves with endless gadgets—often from lack of experience or because of a fast-talking salesman—and research has proven that many wish to squat in the midst of a hundred other campers, wheel to wheel and tent peg to tent peg.

One of the most cherished spots for rare wildflowers that I have ever seen, several varieties of orchids and trilliums, was turned into a campsite. There are no longer any flowers and, if there were, I doubt if the invaders would be able to identify them. Another spot could have been chosen, but the demands of campers were paramount to the preservation of some delicate and rare species of flora.

Studies have shown that many campers want the complete city image at their camp site—people, electric lights, noise and bridge games; and that picnickers appear to be as gregarious. They stay close to the parking lots and herd together. Back-in-the-woods tables go unused. Why continue to claim that people have a deep affinity with the elements of the earth when it is not so?

Many camp and park custodians are now advocating a period of "summer fallowing" for camp and picnic grounds, so that the dusty, beaten-up vegetation can regenerate. In many areas, rare or old-growth trees are dying because of too much trampling, like an overgrazed woodlot with cattle.

Research has also discovered that a substantial number of wilderness campers can stand only a few days of isolation. Even visitors to the Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Country stay at motels and satisfy their gospel of purism by a brief day or so of paddling near the perimeter, or not even that; they insist on an

(continued on page 33)



# MUZZLE FLASHES



Gun operation on the long-coil principle helps  
eliminate annoying autoloading performance

By EDMUND McLAURIN

ONCE IN A LONG WHILE, a gun editor will unwittingly get into editorial difficulties—not because of getting beyond his technical depth, but because of boldly wading into a subject fraught with momentarily forgotten pot-holes.

I recall such a text I wrote for the January 1964 issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*. It dealt with detailed instructions for adjusting the long-recoil mechanical system of autoloading shotguns made on the original Browning patent, for firing of heavy and light loads.

My given directions were based on old Browning instruction booklets in my files, and on Chapter 17 and illustrations contained in Roy F. Dunlap's technical book, "Modern Gunsmithing."

Publication brought both bouquets and brickbats. Glowing letters of praise came from certain readers who had faithfully followed my directions and thereby overcome annoying shell jamming difficulties common to long-recoil type autoloaders possessing mechanical faults in the friction brake system. Others, themselves familiar with shotgun recoil adjustments, took exception on the grounds that given instructions did not exactly tally with the detailed procedure described in the latest Browning booklets.

In this particular case, everyone can be right and everyone can be wrong, if you wish to further complicate the review. . . . Actually, no matter how you assemble the component parts of the friction brake assembly on long-recoil shotguns, you are likely to have variable results. . . . Parts can be assembled in proper order, but the shotgun's shell loading and ejection can still be faulty. In rare instances, it is even possible to assemble the brake components wrongly, and still get satisfactory results.

Variables can be traced to numerous causes. One or more parts may be worn. One or more may be too tight or too weak, with reliable mechanical functioning being affected thereby.

For example, if your shotgun's recoil spring is more than five years old, it would be practical to spend a couple of dollars for a new one. The same thing applies to worn or burred friction piece and barrel guide ring. Trying to get results from a recoil brake assembly that has long passed peak life is something of a gamble.

Besides original parts obtainable from Browning, Remington, Savage and other makers of autoloaders based on John M. Browning's patent, you can buy a brake kit for \$1.95 from CHB Products, Box 5072, Wichita, Kansas, to use with your present recoil spring. The kit consists of a self-lubricating Teflon friction sleeve and two steel rings that, together, give different power adjustments when assembled in varying positions (as described in an accompanying circular). The kit can be had for 12 and 16 gauge Browning, Savage, Remington models 11 and Sportsman 11, Franchi and Western Field shotguns. Kits of 20 gauge size can be had only for Brownings.

Where an autoloading shotgun of long-recoil system punishes the shooter's shoulder just about every time he fires, chances are the friction brake's component parts are not properly assembled, or otherwise need attention. The purpose of the internal brake is to slow down moving parts after they have completed their required performances. If they are not slowed, they tend to slam hard against the backplate of the autoloading shotgun's receiver, and contribute to the recoil the shooter feels. This usually occurs when the brake system is adjusted for light (field) loads and heavy (express) shells are fired instead.

If the reverse (heavy brake and a light load), the gun will likely fail to eject a fired shell and completely feed a fresh shell into firing chamber.

Ordinarily, for *heavy* shell loads, owners of Browning, Remington 11 and "Sportsman" models should assemble the recoil component parts in the following order: First, slip the long spiral recoil spring on the extension tube. Follow with the solid washer-like friction ring, beveled edge forward (facing the muzzle). Finally, slip on the wide band split-collar friction piece (actually, a split-band spring). This particular component must not be rough or binding on the extension tube.

For *light* loads, the friction ring is taken from front end and put next to the receiver, with the spiral spring on top of it. The split-collar style friction piece again takes position at the other end of the spiral spring, again with beveled edge forward.

These instructions apply to most autoloading shotguns made on the Browning patent long-recoil



system, but physical appearance and arrangement of components may vary with individual manufacturers. If experimentation does not correct shell jamming or excessive recoil trouble, write the maker of your autoloading shotgun and ask for detailed instructions.

Too much or insufficient lubrication of the extension tube on which spring and other brake components ride, can cause trouble; so can accumulated dirt.

Personally, I like for braking systems on my long-recoil autoloading shotguns to be perfectly clean, and lubricated only with sprayed on XF-15 (fast drying) graphite. Initial cleaning can be done with mineral spirits. Just be sure all parts are dry before reassembly and application of the XF-15 preparation.

You don't have to continue to put up with annoying autoloading shotgun performance, if your gun operates on the long-recoil principles.

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ANYTHING THAT STIMULATES active interest in a hunting, fishing or conservation club contributes to its success. Entertaining movie films are in that category.

Here in Florida, the Florida Outdoor Writers' Association is one of several large organizations that utilize outdoor subject films to enliven convention programs and help get across basic messages.

There are many sources for entertaining as well as instructive outdoor theme films.

Most state game and conservation commissions have fine films on wildlife and related subjects, for circulation on loan. In addition, numerous sporting goods manufacturers, magazine publishers and national conservation organizations have films that are available for showing. All you need is a 16mm sound projector and screen.

My file of available film subjects totals 97, and there are at least a dozen more that I haven't indexed. Most can be booked for free showing, on application to source. The majority are subtly and tastefully done in respect to incorporated product advertising.

Especially worthy of mention are "Gifts of Tomorrow," "Choosing and Using a Rifle Scope" and "A Way of Life," from Redfield Gun Sight Company's Film Library, 2130 South Bellaire Street, Denver, Colorado. . . . "The Mourning Dove Story," "Showman Shooter" and "Predators For Sport," from Conservation Dept., Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp., East Alton, Illinois. . . . "Out of the North," from American Motors (Rambler), Detroit. . . . "Meet The Ducks" and "Each Year They Come,"

Autoloading shotguns made on the original Browning patent long-recoil principle are generally reliable, fast-firers when incorporated friction brake system is properly assembled for type of shotgun shell used.

available from Ducks Unlimited, 165 Broadway, New York. . . . "Pointing Dogs Afield" and "National Fox Hunt," from Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, Missouri. . . . "Sun, Veldt and Giants," "Wing Shooter's Magic" and "Reloading Fired Cartridges," from Lyman Gun Sight Company, Middlefield, Connecticut.

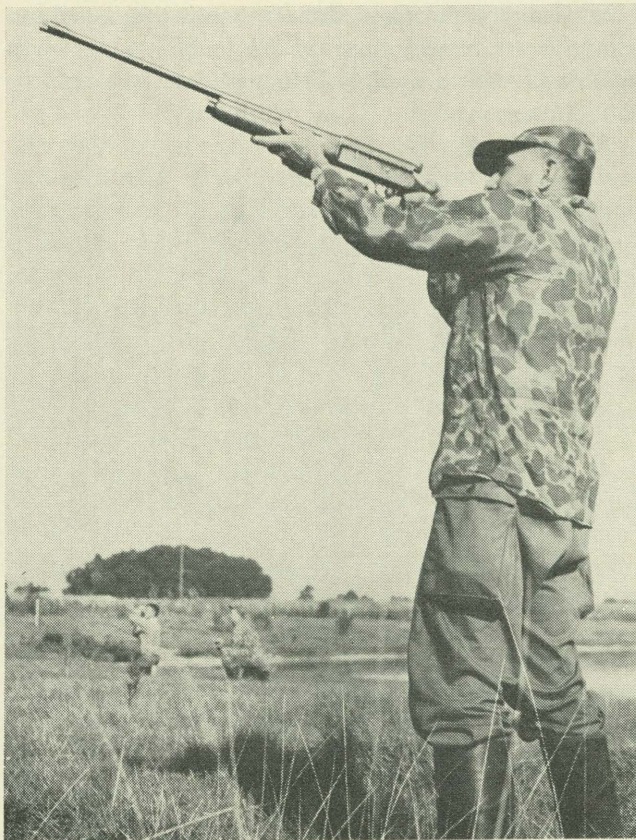
Other sources of hunting and shooting film subjects are Browning Arms Co., St. Louis, Missouri; Ithaca Gun Company, Ithaca, New York; Daisy Mfg. Company, Rogers, Arkansas; FIELD & STREAM, 385 Madison Avenue, New York (rentals); The High Standard Mfg. Company, Hamden, Connecticut; National Rifle Association, Washington, D.C. (rentals); GUNS MAGAZINE, Skokie, Illinois; Remington Arms, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan.

Fishing films are also numerous. John Zervas, who is information specialist for the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers', 200 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, will gladly send you a long list.

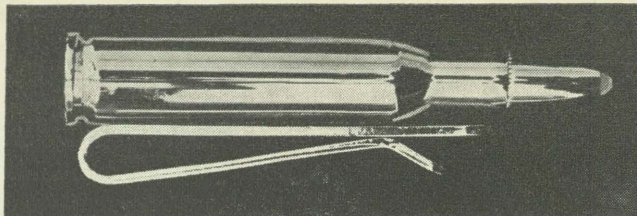
"Fishing in Florida," "Fishing—Luck or Logic?," "Between You and the Fish," "Bass In the Hand," "Marlin On The Mind" and "Fishing Thrills" are recommended subjects. You should also write Sears, Roebuck; Dept. 606, Homan Avenue, Chicago, for loan of the Ted Williams-made tarpon subject film.

While most films are sent to applying clubs without charge, some have nominal service charges, but these are always stated. There are no hidden charges, or gimmicks, connected with film showings. Of

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course, you are expected to return the films at your own expense, for which there is a special, very low, parcel post rate.

Requests should be made well in advance of intended showing, with possibly alternate date or title considered should your planned showing conflict with an already arranged booking.

WHEN A SHOOTER, fisherman or conservationist sets a record of accomplishment that merits acclaim, it is customary for clubs to recognize his efforts by presenting him with an engraved plaque, a trophy cup or an engraved medal.

The idea of recognizing effort, basically, is fine—except that, in time, a really active, dedicated individual is apt to find himself the possessor of an array of ostentatious medal awards which modesty keeps him from wearing, or else is the recipient of bulky trophies for which permanent resting places are frequently hard to find in the home.

Far better—to my way of thinking—to simply award a framed certificate, or a letter of appreciation, along with some truly useful item.

For example, a silver, dress attire width, belt buckle with an overlay appropriate to the sport, when combined with a quality belt, makes a fine presentation piece.

Authentic sterling silver overlays of popular rifle and pistol models, and other sports' identification, can be had from V. H. Blackington Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts, the firm that manufactures medals and trophies long used by shooting clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Your local jeweler can obtain and attach an appropriate sterling overlay to a sterling belt buckle of local jeweler stock selection.

Where recipients are members of a club affiliated with the National Rifle Association, jewelry items featuring the official NRA emblem can be ordered from the Washington, D.C., headquarters. Included are rings, cuff links, key chain and tie-tack for men and a 10K gold ring and bracelet charm for ladies.

Highly detailed antique silver tie clip miniatures of Patterson, 1851 Navy, Wells Fargo and other revolver models are marketed by Art-Jan Mfg. Company, P. O. Box 592, Freeport, New York. They, too, make good individual presentation pieces, especially for runners-up who just failed to take a major award.

Quality jewelry items, appropriate to the sport, make excellent presentation pieces for clubs to award; are more useful than medals or trophies.



Available from another source is a beautifully gold finished tie clasp made from a full size, plated Remington .222 caliber center fire varmint cartridge. Attachment to shirt is by a compressed flat bar spring clip soldered to the back of the gold plated cartridge. The tie clip measures 2-1/8 inches overall; it can be ordered from Forester-Appelt Mfg. Company, Lanark, Illinois. Price is \$2.75. The clasp comes in a clear plastic presentation box.

Eight jewelry items appropriate to fishing activity can be obtained from The Garcia Corporation, Teaneck, New Jersey. Included in the group are four tie clasps. One is of flat bar design with raised effect spinning reel, finished in 14K gold. Another is chain style with lively looking, flexible body-scale fish, finished in chrome, on a spring clip base. A third design is merely the flexible, silvery fish attached to a spring bar. The fourth available design is of chromed chain and spring clip pattern, with dangling miniature fishing creel attached. (Prices range from \$3.00 to \$4.95).

The other four items are for wear by the ladies, the most novel of which is a gold-filled chain bracelet featuring a miniature 14K finished, spinning reel. The bracelet also has a clasp feature.

Jamisan Crafts, 1003 Main Street, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, manufactures some nice looking, inexpensive bar and chain style tie clasps that identify the wearer with such individual pursuits as shooting, fishing, archery, dog raising and boating. Either gold or silver plate can be had. ●



# FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

It takes a little time and exploration to understand the angles of canal fishing

**A**WHILE BACK A NATIVE Floridian sent me a letter full of verbal handsprings upon discovery of the best fishing he'd ever had.

Together with another hard-fishing native, this character had struck it rich in some canals near Vero Beach and Fort Pierce and I managed to cull out enough superlatives to learn they had caught and released a hundred and some snook and had wrestled untold tarpon, using flies. I'd received a second letter from a plug caster who gushed about the terrific bass fishing in another canal only a few miles from the snook triumph.

Fine ditch fishing is nothing new in Florida. My point is that all of these "pioneers" had lived in the state all of their lives and had taken 40-odd years to zero in on the canals.

Maybe I can give you some helpful dope on the ditches.

Number One thing you must remember is that canal conditions are much less stable than those of rivers and lakes. A good canal fisherman is a wanderer who knows today's hot spot can be a hopeless mudhole (or an unproductive lake) next season.

Unless you've been checking constantly, trial and error is about the only method of locating good ca-

nals. Appearances are misleading because a fishy appearing canal may have been dry last year, may have been taken over by rough fish, may have overcrowded and stunted fish—or you name it.

Except for a few well-known ditches and those plainly visible from main highways, canals are under-fished and information about them is skimpy at best so you have to do most of the research on your own and it takes time. That's why Floridians who work for a living seldom get far in the canal business. Most anglers with limited time don't want to spend it exploring when there are places they *know* contain fish.

Although I'm a lover of pee wee boats I find them a mixed blessing on small out-of-the-way canals. One reason is that fish in small canals are easily spooked by boats. Another complaint is all tied up with human nature—since you've launched a boat you may be slow to pull it out and go somewhere else even though the fishing is punk.

Most Florida fish are used to some boat traffic but narrow, unused ditches are something else and there's a tendency for your quarry to move ahead of you, a condition underlined by the fact  
*(continued on next page)*

Boats will work on the big canals although they are apt to "spook" fish on the small ones. This is an Okeechobee spot just off the "rim ditch." The guide is Cliff Pardoe.





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most boatmen move about as unobtrusively as a moon rocket.

After athletic efforts in trying to get their lures into a narrow South Florida ditch some friends of mine went to great effort in dragging a pram to the scene. The canal was full of small tarpon and they figured they had it made because they'd had plenty of action without the boat in spite of casting difficulties. But once their boat was in the water things changed and the tarpon stayed just out of reach until bottled up in the canal's end. Then they'd slide back under the gently maneuvered boat and head the other way. Foiled again!

Well, bass, bream and snook may be less boat sensitive but chances are they'll get wary in any narrow canal—even though they can't be seen on the lam the way rolling tarpon are spotted.

Casting from the bank is Number One small canal method and can be tough enough to send most fishermen back to broader waters. An exception is the roadside ditch with a state-maintained highway shoulder such as the Tamiami Trail canal, best known of the ditches.

A long rod is helpful because you generally can't walk quite to the water's edge and you need some way of lifting your lure over the shoreline vegetation. That's no problem for fly casters but the plug or spinning rod isn't so handy. A seven or 7½-foot spinning rod is fine. Few pluggers can handle more than six or 6½ feet of stick so they'll just have to make do.

The Tamiami canal and other roadside ditches are ideal for fly casting but less cosmopolitan waters have no provision for back casting and canals are generally too deep to wade. Lure manufacturers love canals as a hangup on the far side usually means a lost goody.

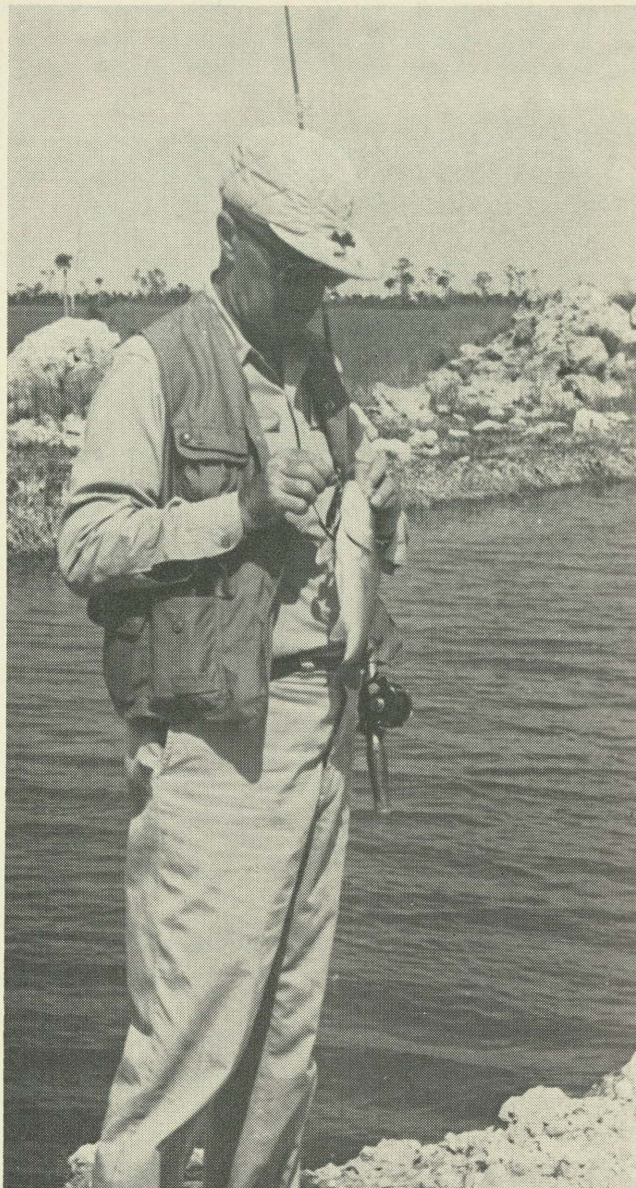
I generally minimize snake dangers (usually overrated by newcomers) but canal edges are attractive to both moccasins and rattlers. Snake boots or extreme caution are advised. I'd say walking the bank is more dangerous than actually wading and you should take a good look before reaching for a near-side hangup or before jumping into landing operations.

A landing net is a big help and the small trout-sized ones are much better than nothing for bass and small brackish water species. Roadside fishermen who stick close to their cars can employ a long-handled boat net if there's someone free to run for it.

Now and then I see a canal fisherman who takes the big net along in spite of inconvenience.

If you do a lot of ditch walking, a fishing vest is a good investment but few Florida anglers use them, evidently counting them a northern affectation. I figure there's no practical substitute.

Judging canal waters is fairly simple. Canal fish-



Even the new canals may be full of fish if they have the right connections. This ditch is at the new South Florida Highway.

ing is generally at its best as the level is falling, probably causing run-ins from small flats or lesser ditches. The run-ins leave food and concentrate fish. In tidal waters this can happen regularly and experts learn the spots and when to visit them.

At really low water in either tidal or fresh canals the deep spots are generally best.

There is no foolproof method of telling how long a canal has been full of water but the presence of bonnets (lily pads) in fresh water is a pretty good indication it hasn't dried up recently.

Generally you're pretty close to canal targets so soft walking and subdued clothing will help.

Where surface lures will work they're best of all since hangups are disastrous to walking fishermen. If a boat must be used, paddles are generally quieter than oars and take less room in a small area.



Newly dug canals wouldn't seem to be a good choice at first thought but they should be investigated and if they connect to fishy water they may be worth a try. Fish will often move into a new area as soon as it is opened. One of the toughest angles to a relatively new canal is that it is without vegetation which makes it tough to figure where the fish would concentrate. Only the bottom conformation can cause them to bunch up.

Becoming a good canal fisherman takes a lot of time. There may be no new fishing skills to learn but there's a lot of exploring to do.

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THE PIRANHA, darling of the adventure story writers, is pretty generally accepted as the most dangerous of fish and there is little doubt that, upon occasion, schools of the fish have attacked and killed human beings and larger creatures. However, there are several kinds of piranha in South America, some of which are not believed especially dangerous. In talking about the fish to biologists I haven't been able to learn too much and most of the accounts of bloody piranha attacks are pretty well dressed up.

At any rate, it's against the law to import them to this country, a fact of special interest to Florida which has a climate approximating that in which they are known to thrive. The possibility of their getting a fin-hold on our shores is a pretty chilling thought.

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EVER SINCE CUT-RATE fishing tackle knocked the props from much of the industry, many mail order houses and "wholesale" stores have offered fishing outfits which include "everything you need to fish in lake or stream, day or night." You simply write one check and get the whole works.

Of course most serious fishermen assemble their own outfits a piece at a time. The "fishing outfit" may, however, be a boon to the beginner who isn't particularly interested in equipment as such and simply wants to be sure he gets everything he needs to go fishing.

I believe in matched fishing outfits all right although I think the buyer is most likely to get a good layout if he'll simply let a good tackle man make it up especially for him.

The mail order outfit is likely to be inexpensive and maybe it's a good investment. Generally it includes at least one well known item, probably a reel of acknowledged popularity. You may take a beating on the rod unless it's one you've heard of before. A little work with a pencil will show whether you're really getting a buy or not.

I want to point out that the spinning reels offered are usually of a well-known make but, generally, it's a make regularly found in such offers. There are certain items of equipment that are nearly al-

ways "marked down," being advertised at a very high "retail price" with a big discount. For that matter, there are a few fishing items that were originally offered at a high price only and were later cheapened in quality so that the cut-rate gimmicks could be worked.

This is the same practice often criticized in the automobile industry where an enormous trade-in allowance is handled by a heavily padded "retail" price. I can think of at least one brand of spinning reel I haven't seen sold at "regular" price for more than ten years.

Some of the bargain outfits have hundreds of pieces in them although most of the items don't cost much. They even sell "family" outfits. Perhaps they're a good buy for an occasional outing or a single vacation when no one has had fishing experience.

Although they make a lot of high quality stuff, the Japanese haven't helped this bargain tackle situation. Some time back a tackle man asked my opinion of some imported Japanese spinning reels he had been considering. They looked a lot like some pretty good equipment of "standard" manufacture until you sniffed them over closely and then learned that cost to the importer was 70 cents each. A kind way of putting it is simply that they weren't exactly lifetime quality.

If you start from scratch, an expert dealer is generally the best bet. Fishing "outfits" may be bargains but check the list before you buy.

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I WROTE A BOOK. It is called "Fresh Water Fishing, Family Camping and Hunting in Florida." It's published by Erving Publications, Box 1030, Kissimmee, Florida and they'd send you one for a buck if you can't find it in your neck of the woods.

I tried to outline the Florida fresh water methods together with some opinions on tackle and places to go. But there's something too for you hardheads who don't care what I think about fishing methods. It's a pretty complete directory of fresh water fishing spots throughout the state. There's a camping directory too.

After all, it is only a buck and I need the money.

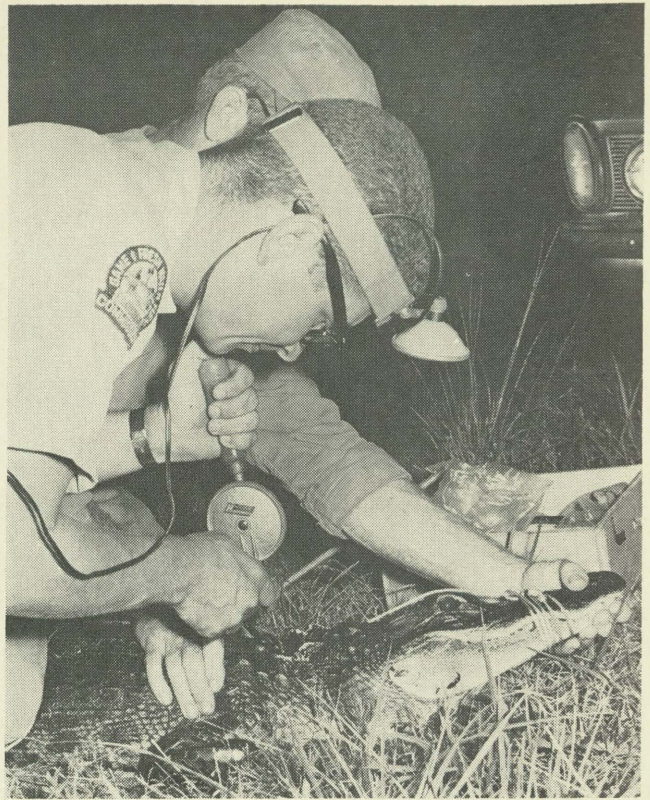
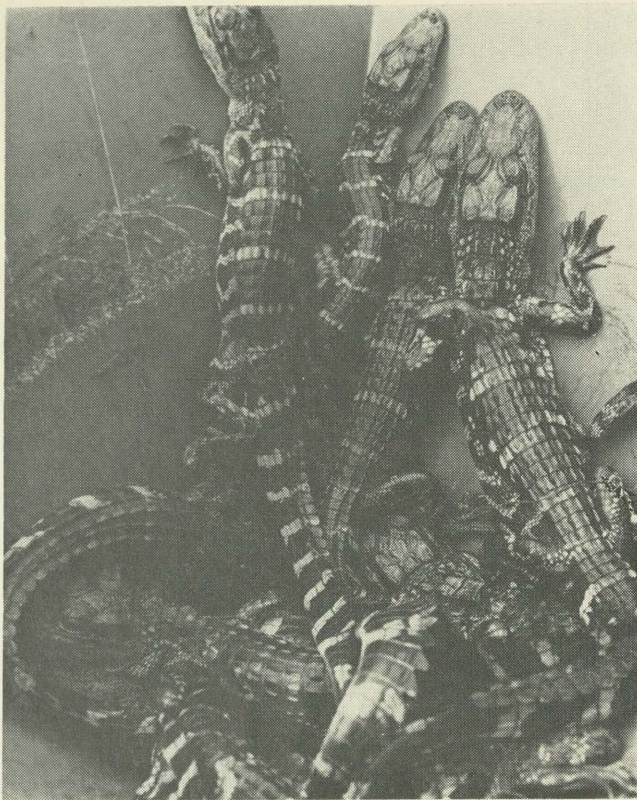
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WHILE IN THE book review department, I should mention that Don Fuelsch has appeared again with his Southern Angler's and Hunter's Guide for 1965-66.

If you have no time for fishing you could spend 1966 reading the Guide, which has a total of 1180 attractive pages (it gets bigger every year). If there is anything Don has missed, I don't have time to look it up.

That's \$2.50 from Don J. Fuelsch, Southern Angler's Guide, P.O. Box 2188, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71919. ●





Small alligators, less than a year old, above left, are best for the most useful life history information being gathered by Florida's gator research biologists. Sometimes bigger ones are caught such as the one being readied for tagging, above right, by Game Management biologist F. K. Jones. Most alligators are captured at night, and are tagged and released the next day. Game biologists Mike Fogarty and Carlton Chappell, below, measure a small gator. Several measurements are made before release so that rate growth can be determined when recaptured.





# MARKS of DISTINCTION

For Florida's Research Alligators

Photo Story

By LOVETT WILLIAMS

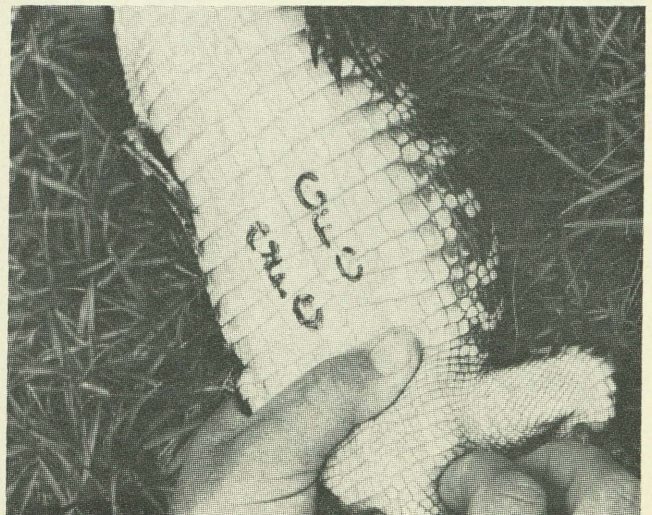
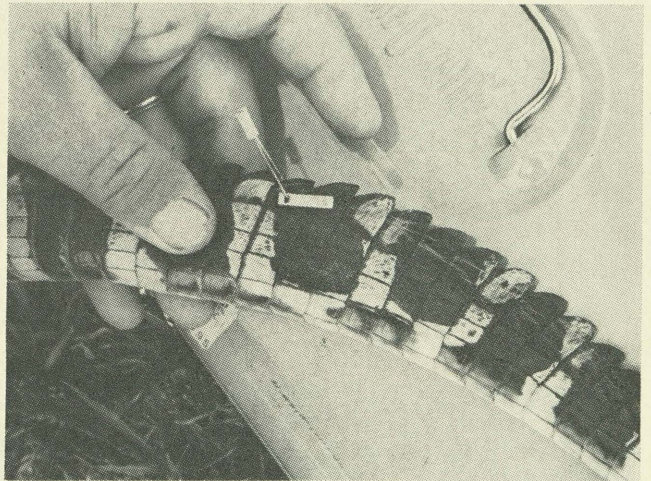
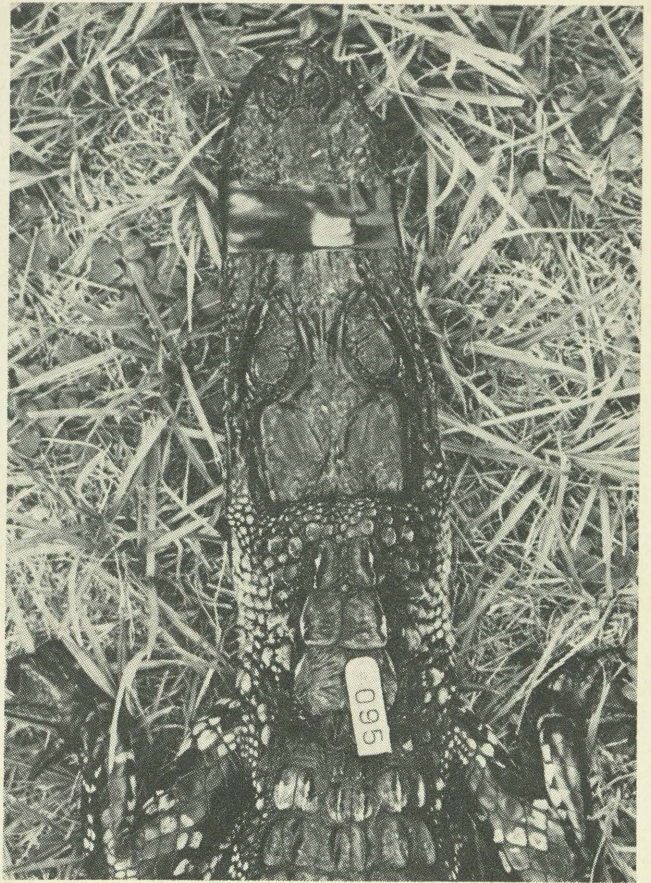
Game Management Division

**W**HEN ONE GATOR'S HIDE sells for more than five beaver hides or a couple of mink, it's time to take a close look into the economic value of the wild alligator population in Florida. Whatever the State's gator hides are worth, one thing is for sure—we intend to keep the ole gator around.

Right now almost nothing is known about wild alligators and before anybody starts poking at them, more than a few questions need to be answered. The first is basic: Can we have our gators and skin them too? The answer is probably *yes* but just exactly how to harvest the crop without endangering the breeding stock will take some figuring. And that figuring is underway in a big way right now.

A research project on the gator was kicked off last summer to test several possible sets of harvesting methods and regulations to see which, if any, could be employed without hurting the gator population. This will provide a tentative answer on study areas. Information is badly needed on natural growth rates of gators; we need to know the age and size at which a female reaches prime reproductive condition; can gators be harvested by the public in some manner so that the females can be spared? For most of these questions the researchers need to be able to tell one gator from another. And that's where this story starts. ●

Alligators are marked three ways. At top, a hole drilled painlessly into the bony plate of the neck holds numbered tag fitted in place by a pop rivet. Center photo; a hole punched, again painlessly, through the tough hide of the tail accommodates another kind of tag. Just to be sure, the shallow inscription "GFC," which will outlast the gator and show on a tanned hide, is branded on the belly.





# WAKULLA SPRINGS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

ALL ANIMALS AND PLANTS FULLY PROTECTED

ADMINISTERED BY

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS ENFORCED



## WILDLIFE OASIS

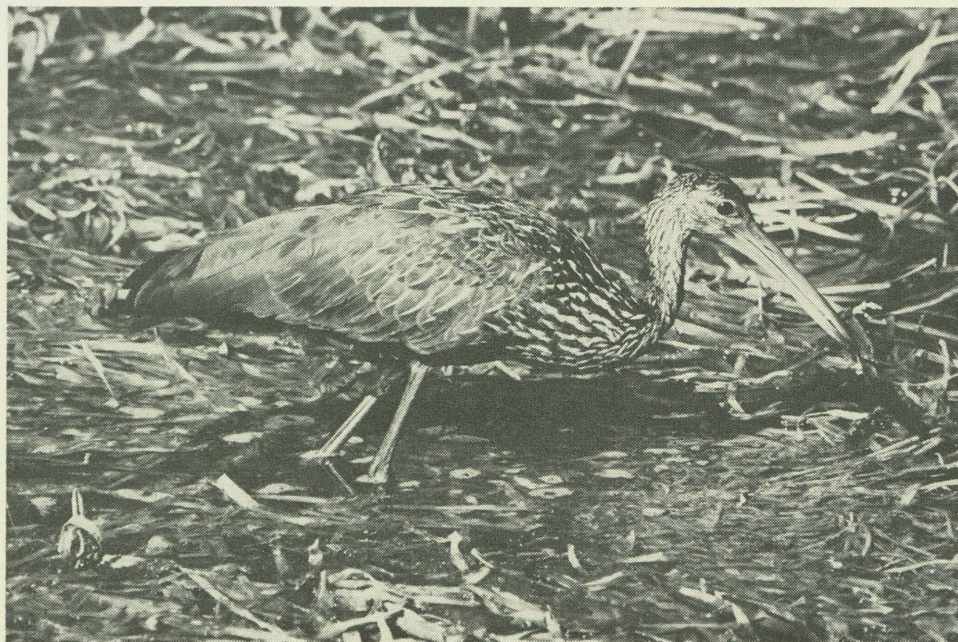
where man is merely a  
spectator . . . where the  
entire natural community  
exists in complete harmony

**T**HE ALLIGATOR LANGUISHED its 10-foot, 300-pound bulk on the bleached, fallen cypress skeleton, basking in the early afternoon sun but keeping an alert eye on the approaching boat.

Upstream a half-mile near the Wakulla River's birthplace, a slightly larger 'gator—all but its eyes and the tip of its snout submerged beneath the rank, floating mass of aquatic vegetation—raised its armored head above the pickerel weed and wild celery and pond lilies and greeted the warmth with a resounding off-season bellow.

It was late October, the mercury had dipped to 32 degrees during the night, and as the temperature climbed toward the mid-70s—more respectable for northern Florida in autumn—these mighty reptiles were shaking their chill-inspired lethargy.

An answering boom from another bull farther

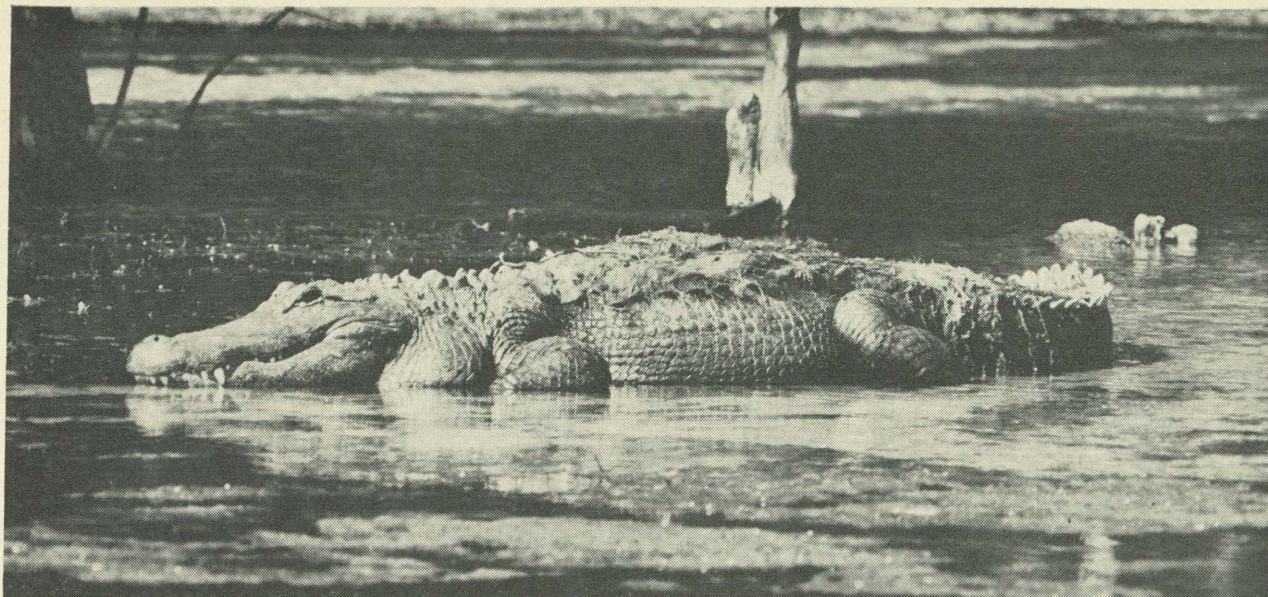


By **LES LINE**

National Audubon Society

Audubon Society Wildlife Warden Sam Smith, above, stands by the sign marking entrance to Wakulla Springs, 14 miles south of Tallahassee on State Road 61. The Limpkin, left, or "Crying Bird," seldom seen outside of Florida, is a common and friendly resident of this wildlife sanctuary.





down river reverberated up the corridor through the swamp like a roar of a jetliner on takeoff. And a trio of young crocodilians—three-footers—watched a trio of common gallinules patter over the pads near a burnished cypress knee. But there was little danger in the red-billed marsh birds' close proximity to the alligators; the latter would be eating little or nothing from now to late March.

This was Wakulla Springs Wildlife Sanctuary, 4,000 Spanish moss festooned acres of unspoiled beauty on the Peninsular State's Panhandle—and under the protective wing of the National Audubon Society. A graphic panorama of nature at its finest was unfolding as the flat-bottomed tour craft nosed into the channel through a cypress tangle dubbed "the jungle." Here, Johnny Weismuller once swung

*(Continued on next page)*



Alligators, such as the 12-foot bull sunning himself, above, on submerged cypress log, can usually be observed at close proximity at the "Springs." Florida cormorants, center, pose on top of a dead cypress. Cruise boats, right, journey down the river and into the swamps, enabling visitors to see, close-up the natural wonders of nature at Wakulla Springs.



Photos By The Author





Perched high overhead on limbs of a dead tree, Black and Turkey Vultures, left, calmly watch life about them. The view shown below is typical of Wakulla Springs Wildlife Sanctuary's 4,000 acres of unspoiled beauty. The alligator, at right, all but hidden in a dense mass of swampy growth, dwells in harmony with the other wild residents of this wilderness area.

(Continued from preceding page)

through the trees on stout grape vines as Hollywood cameras ground out Tarzan epics.

But the tourist from up East was visibly puzzled. We were leaning over the bow, our 300mm telephoto lens focused on a green heron fishing with reddish neck outstretched, head cocked to one side and crest erect. In the stern sat Sam Smith of nearby Crawfordville, one of two full-time Audubon wildlife wardens assigned to Wakulla by the National Audubon Society.

"Why don't you get rid of some of these alligators?," queried the Long Islander. "Don't they eat a lot of birds and fish?"

Ahead of the boat, in the clear and unpolluted waters of the Wakulla River, scores of big mullet scattered, some leaping a foot above the surface in their haste to escape. A flock of two dozen-plus wood ducks—the males garbed in full regal plumage—winged through the maze of cypress trunks and landed almost within jaw's reach of the biggest alligator, by now stretched atop the green mat of emergent plants, its horny tail arched in a half-circle.

A pileated woodpecker flashed from bank to bank, its spectacular red crest translucent as it paused to rap its way up a live oak. Four blue-winged teal, drab in their fall eclipse moult, joined the woodies. And a conclave of coots kept to itself, while scattered pied-billed grebes plied the main channel.

A shortage of wildlife, alligator-caused? "How about it, Sam," we injected, "think there're enough fish and birds here?"

His comment, as usual, was brief and to the point: "Yeah Man!"

Overhead, the sanctuary's circling, funereal court of buzzards—both turkey vultures with their warty



red heads and black vultures with their definitive white wing patches—scattered at the screaming arrival of Wakulla's royalty, a pair of adult bald eagles, white heads and tails brilliant against the cloudless blue sky. Fish crows noted the event with their brief, nasal "ca, ca," and a phoebe flitted nervously from one stub to another as the big predators' shadow passed. But two northern couples, who had stopped en route to *their* wintering grounds at Miami, missed the eagles' dramatic entry. They were peering intently through the glass bottom of another boat as Negro guide Luke Smith hovered



the craft over hordes of lunker catfish milling in the crystal depths of Wakulla Springs.

A shortage of wildlife, alligator-caused?

What, obviously, had eluded the New Yorker was the significance of the scene he was viewing, this lesson in ecology on an unrestricted stage. For here was an area where the whole natural community lives in total harmony—in balance—an area where man is merely an appreciative spectator, not an intruder, a changer, a despoiler.

Indeed, nearly every wild inhabitant of the sanctuary is dependent upon its neighbor, lives on its neighbor—and has done so for centuries—in a dramatic display of predator-prey relationship.

Yet there is an overflowing bounty of fish and birds and reptiles and mammals in the Wakulla swamp . . . a bottomless cupboard, in reality, for other fish and birds and reptiles and mammals.

A careless rail which mistakes a dozing but hungry alligator for a knotty log might, certainly, vanish with a "keek" and a puff of feathers. But the crocodilian has a varied appetite. An examination of the stomach contents of 149 'gators by federal biologists showed 47 percent of the food was crustaceans—shrimp, crabs, crawfish—while insects and spiders accounted for 23 percent and 29 percent were vertebrates, mainly fish, birds, snakes, turtles, mammals. One 12-footer—about as large as is found today after decades of ruthless persecution—is reported to have swallowed three whole pigs, each weighing about 30 pounds; and an 11-foot alligator was once witnessed killing a three-year-old cow.

Nonetheless the alligator is not without its own enemies, other than man. An unguarded nest

of eggs is certain to be destroyed . . . by a raccoon, opossum, skunk, or perhaps a bear. Large fish devour many a young 'gator. And the black bear, like the cougar an occasional visitor to Wakulla Springs, has been known to best an adult alligator in a watery battle.

There is no hunting at Wakulla Springs Wildlife Sanctuary, nor fishing. "All animals and plants are fully protected," as rustic signs tell visitors and as metal posters warn would-be poachers. Federal and state game laws, further, are rigidly enforced by Audubon Wardens Sam Smith and Ed Gordon.

This is one of several National Audubon Society sanctuaries in Florida, and like the society's famed 6,000-acre Corkscrew Swamp near Naples, a Southern star among more than 25 such refuges from California to Texas to Maine. Largest of all is the 26,000-acre Rainey Sanctuary in Louisiana, near Abbeville. Others in Florida include areas at Kissimmee Prairie, Lake Okeechobee, Cowpens Key and three on Tampa Bay.

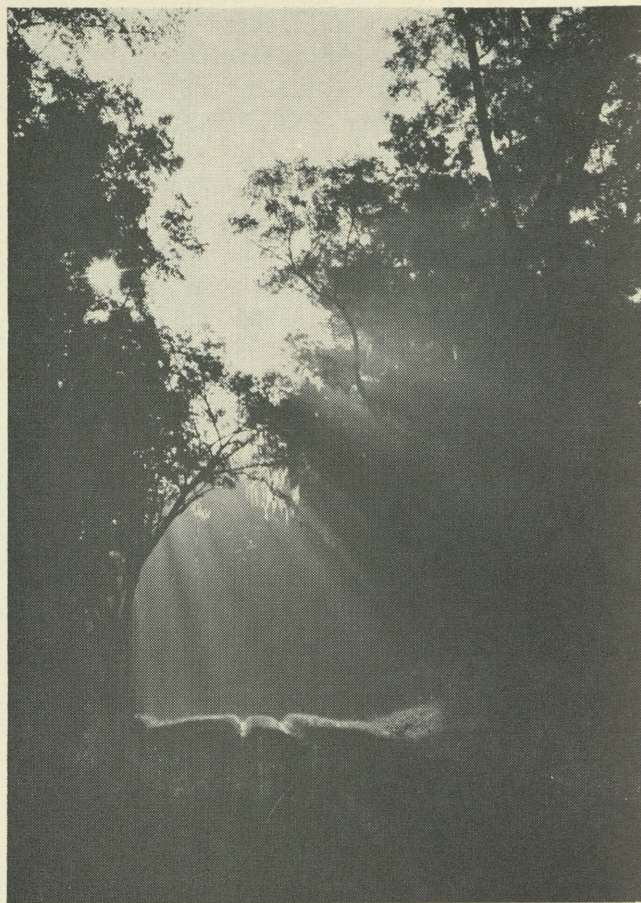
The wildlife oasis at Wakulla Springs, 14 miles south of Tallahassee off state route No. 61, came under the National Audubon Society emblem and management three years ago when it was leased to the society for 50 years by the Wakulla Edgewater Company. The firm continues to operate the attractive lodge there—providing excellent rooms and food—plus the cruise boats. Its president, Florida industrialist Edward Ball, had long demanded that the area be left in its natural condition, that its ani-

(Continued on next page)

Photos By Les Line







(Continued from preceding page)

imals be protected as a heritage for Florida residents and Florida visitors. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission had accorded the swamp itself sanctuary status for many years. Now, the entire 4,000-acre preserve is inviolate under state law.

*Wakulla*, in the tongue of the Seminole Indian, is said to mean "mysterious waters." And the stream itself has been dubbed "River of the Crying Bird." For here is heard, day and night, the piercing wail of the rare limpkin, only species of its kind in the world, seen only rarely outside Florida.

This sizeable, unsuspicious and inconspicuous brown wader stalks the Wakulla River shallows hunting its choice food—a large and green freshwater snail, the shells of which are deposited by the dozens near favored limpkin feeding spots, usually a whitened log or a snag. The limpkin holds the shell in one of its feet, strikes a few blows with its strong, 4½-inch beak, then detaches and swallows the snail. Flushed, it will rise with dangling legs just high enough to clear the weeds before dropping back into the marsh a short distance away.

The limpkin shares the Wakulla River fishing concession with double-crested cormorants—usually found perched upright on a lifeless cypress—and with common egrets, green herons, great blue herons, an occasional white ibis or a wood stork,

Scenes of tranquil beauty greet the eyes of Wakulla Springs visitors. At left, a moss-draped cypress tree; above, early morning on the sanctuary trail. The strange Anhinga, lower right, also called "Snake Bird" and "Water Turkey," dries its wings after an underwater swim in crystal clear waters.

and during the nesting season ospreys. Plus the strange anhinga.

Some call this the snakebird. For when it swims, only its thin and serpentine neck protrudes above the water—frequently with a speared bream being tossed into the best position for swallowing . . . and now and then dropped and promptly retrieved. Others call this the water turkey. For when it sits on a snag, white-patched wings spread and drying, the anhinga's fanned, bronze-tipped tail does, indeed, resemble that of a gobbler.

A skilled diver, the anhinga feasts on fish, aquatic insects, water snakes, small turtles, *even young alligators*. The female has a brownish breast, the male is jet black. And the anhinga will oftentimes soar high overhead like the red-shouldered hawk which frequents the Wakulla forest.

From those heights the snakebird looks down on a river that is mysterious even today. Its source is one of the largest and deepest springs on the planet; impervious to drought, it pours out more than 350 million pure gallons of water daily from a huge sub-



merged cavern. The floor of the spring—at a depth of 185 feet—is often visible from those glass-bottom boats.

The Wakulla Springs Cave yielded a complete mastodon skeleton in 1931; and more recent explorations by paleontologists and spelunkers using scuba gear have retrieved remains of other prehistoric creatures—the giant sloth, tapir, armadillo. These bones and teeth are collected at the Florida Geologic Survey's museum in Tallahassee, with other specimens on display at the resort.

The entrance to the down-sloping cave is 75 feet below the river's surface, and two mastodon femurs were found there in the silt where they had lain 10,000 years. The drowned cavern has been explored only to a level of 250 feet below ground because of the limitations of diving equipment. A one-man submarine, geologists feel, might be the answer.

Still, they have discovered a bone-littered "cemetery" 500 feet inside the cave's mouth. Found there, too, were hundreds of pre-Columbian bone spear points.

Scientists can only speculate that these weapons were used by early man to hunt those giant animals. But how, they wonder, did the prehistoric beasts perish in Wakulla's watery tomb? One theory is that they plunged through a now plugged sinkhole. Or was the cave once dry? A puzzle, too, is the source of the spring itself. Some have incredulously suggested the Great Lakes.

The Wakulla River flows for 4½ miles through the National Audubon Society sanctuary, bisecting a magnificent cypress swamp and hardwood forest, then winds another 10 miles to its junction with the St. Mark's River. Several small springs give birth to feeder streams within the refuge confines.

The Wakulla Sanctuary woodland, while not a virgin forest in the strictest sense, has never seen intensive logging. Only select timber has been removed, none in more than a decade.

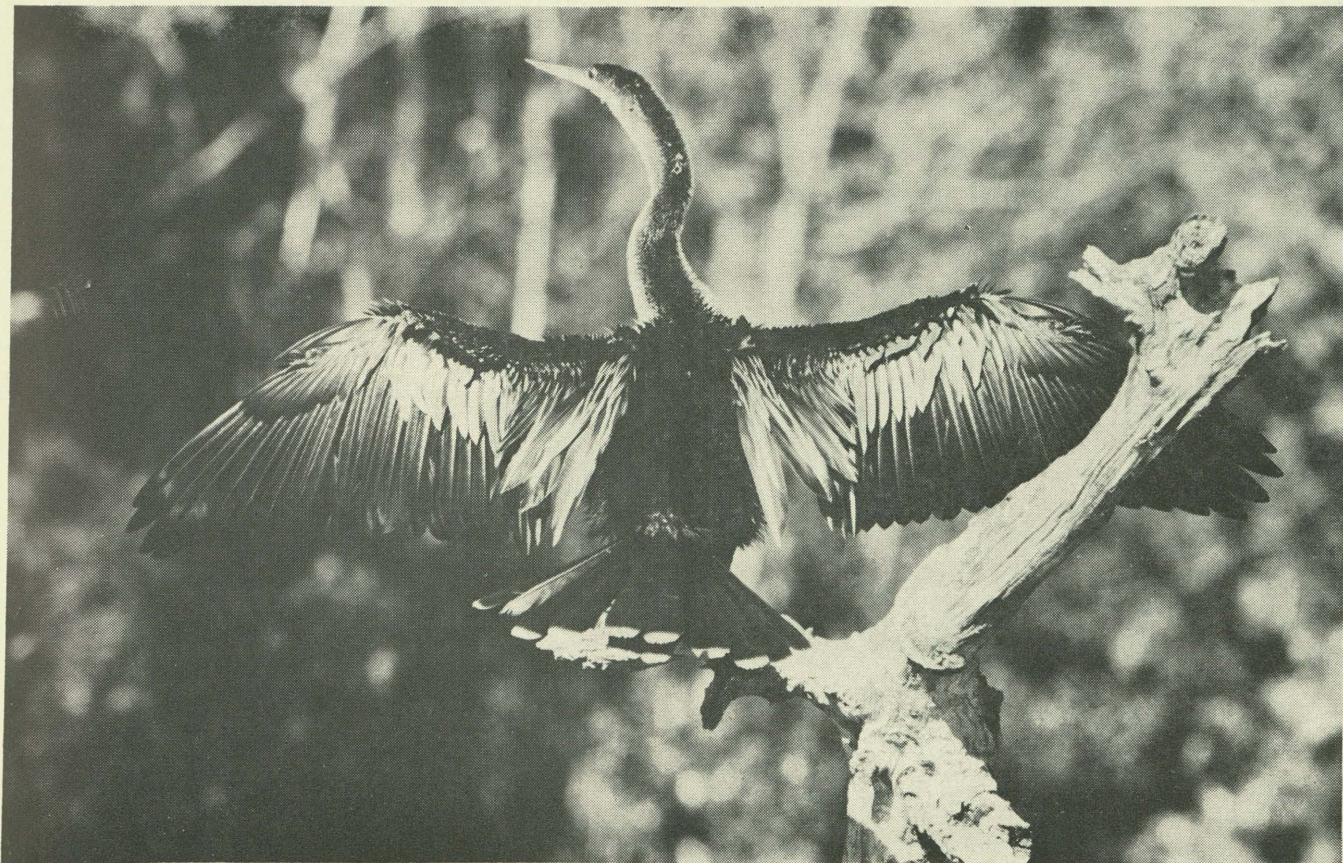
Hence a drive at daybreak down a refuge trail with Sam Smith as he "rides fence" and checks for, perhaps, the destructive rootings of wild pigs is akin to a visit to a primeval forest. Sunlight streaming through the oaks may silhouette a dozen or more—we saw 14—wild turkeys crossing the road to work over the new mast crop. The auto's approach may roust a late brood of bob-white quail—there were nine chicks plus the hen in this family.

Gray squirrels scurry left and right. The dust of the trail reveals the past night's prowling of a bobcat and the travels of a white-tailed doe and her fawn, while the hand prints of a raccoon dot the stream-side mud.

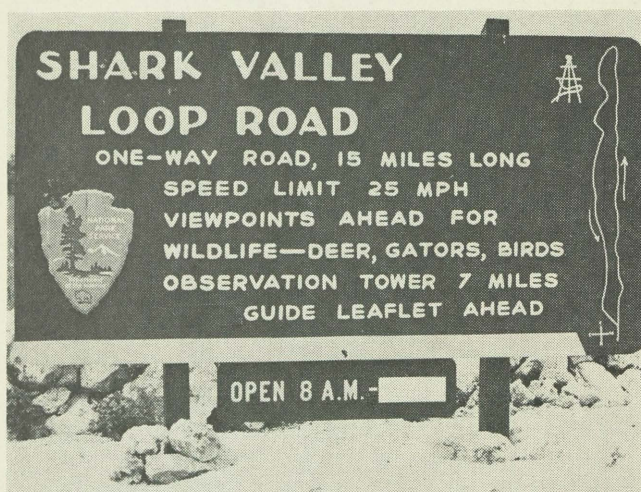
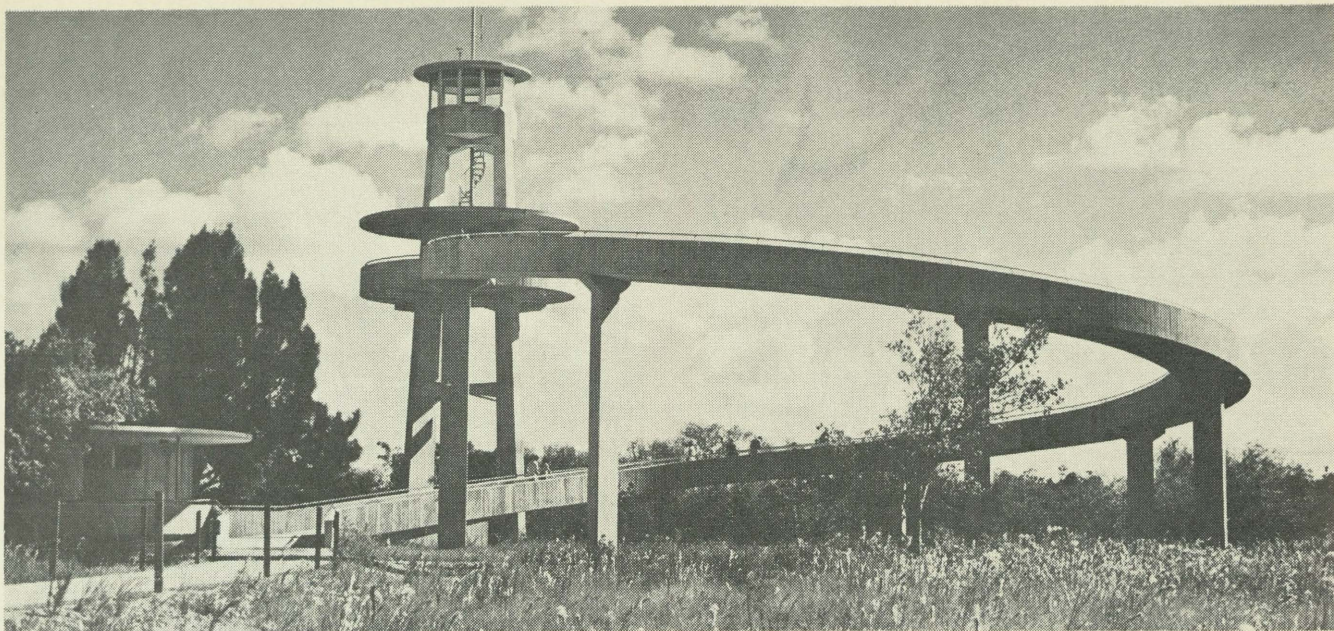
Resident songbirds—mockers, cardinals, Carolina wrens—flit through the brush to feast on autumn berries. And they're joined by migrants recently arrived from the North.

While in the nearby swamp the limpkins greet the dawn. ●

Photos By Les Line







## Everglades Showcase

**H**OW MANY TIMES HAVE those of us who live in south Florida shuddered at the insistent cry of our northern visitors: "Show us your Everglades! Show us your wildlife! We want to see the alligators!"?

For until recently these requests had many of the unreasonable elements of the Labors of Hercules. Our Everglades is incredibly vast, and quite as inaccessible. Our wildlife, numerous and unique, is scattered over an area that would make many a European monarch beam with pride. And our 'gators are as elusive as the creatures of the Flying Saucers reputedly sighted from time to time.

But the problem,—Thank Heaven!—is a thing of the past. For our good, old Uncle Sam has come to the rescue with the construction of the Loop Road.

The Loop Road is a hard-surfaced, single-car-

width highway which the United States Department of the Interior has slashed into the Everglades, at the northern extremity of Everglades National Park, off Tamiami Trail (U.S. Route #41), 35 miles west of Miami.

For 7½ miles it zig-zags south, with numerous stopping-off places, through an area teeming with wildlife and the exotic plants of the American subtropics. A speed limit of 25 miles an hour is imposed by law, to permit the visitor to savor a terrain which is like no other terrain on earth. The Road threads past sparkling lakes, broad stretches of open prairie, pinelands and jungle-like hammocks.

At a 35-foot-high observations tower it makes the turn which accounts for its name and returns the traveler, safely and comfortably, by way of a paral-



lel route, to his starting point on the Trail. Known officially as the Shark Valley Loop Road, it is the first new highway in 1,400,533-acre Everglades National Park in more than ten years.

The "Stopping-Off Places" are 21 in number. They are extensions of the Road where the motorist can park his car, emerge from it and observe in a leisurely manner the fascinating flora and fauna to which his attention is directed by a numbered sign. The numbers on the signs correspond to numbers in an illustrated leaflet, available at the entrance to the Road, for use without cost or to take home for a payment of 10¢.

The leaflet describes in detail the plants, animals or birds one is likely to encounter at a given point. The number of each species varies with the season of the year. The plants, having no mobility, are easy to see. Not so the shy wildlife of the Glades which, enveloped in its protective coloration, may be within easy reach but still invisible to any but the most patient and skilled observer.

The observation tower is a structure of modernistic design. Its concrete walkways spiral the visitor to a protected observation deck from which he has a breathtaking view of the Everglades and the headwaters of the Shark River which drains into the Gulf of Mexico through the Park. The great, watery wasteland is dotted with innumerable islands, or "hammocks," and on these islands live most of the wildlife and all the Indian inhabitants of the region. The Indians are descendants of the savages who

fought so ferociously against the Whites during the Seminole Wars of the mid-nineteenth century and who, when defeated, fled to their present refuge in the Glades. The Everglades itself is not a swampland, but a mighty river of grass, never more than a few feet deep and fifty miles wide, flowing slowly southward from Lake Okeechobee, 100 miles to the north.

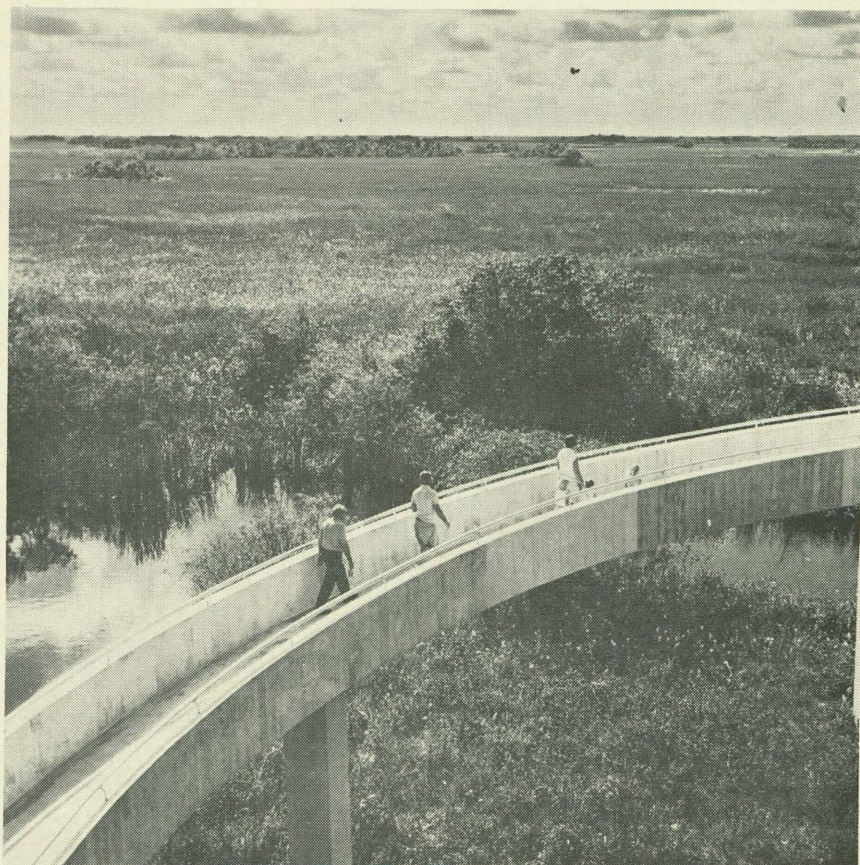
At the base of the observation tower is the park rangers' pride and joy, the *PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE* to a Loop Road tour; an old moat crawling with alligators. The moat is one that was dug and abandoned several decades ago by an overly-optimistic oil exploration crew. It is now the home of the fattest and friendliest 'gators in the Park. The ugly creatures have lost their fear of man and shamelessly beg cookies and potato chips, for which they reward with a heart-stopping snap of their powerful jaws.

You won't be able to hunt in the area of the Loop Road, and no fishing is permitted. Also, there is no provision for overnight camping, trailers or picnics. (Drinking water and rest-room facilities are available at the observation tower.) But a leisurely auto trip through America's last untouched wilderness will prove a rewarding experience for you and your guests.

What is more it will enable you to comply with those hitherto uncompliant requests: "Show us your Everglades! Show us your Wildlife! We want to see the alligators!" ●

By JOHN FIX

The 35-foot-high observation tower at half-way point, along the Loop Road, offers the visitor a magnificent view of Shark River Valley in the Everglades. A sign post at the entrance to the Loop Road invites visitors to borrow a leaflet . . . or buy one for a dime! The leaflet describes the wonders of the Everglades and identifies them to correspond with numbered stopping off place along the trail. That fabulous Sea of Grass, the Everglades, right, looking south from the tower. Clumps of trees are "hammocks" or islands on which live most of the wildlife and the Glades Indian tribes.

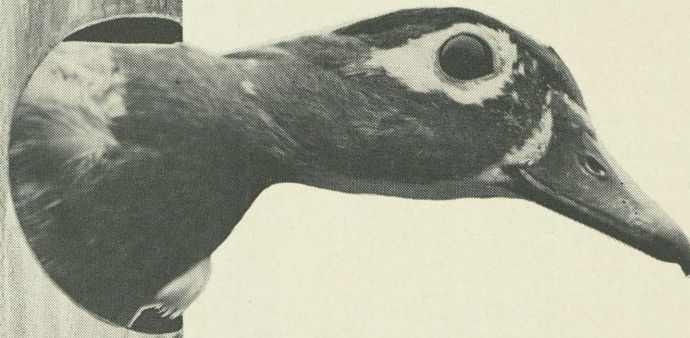




# S.A.F.W.D.\*

UNUSUAL FOR DUCKS, the Wood Duck nests in holes in trees. The most important limiting factor governing Wood Duck populations is shortage of nesting places. Found throughout Florida the year 'round, this most colorful of all waterfowl will readily nest in properly built artificial homes in the form of man-made boxes. Conservation-minded individuals and groups can provide useful assistance by building nest boxes for Wood Ducks.

By WALLACE HUGHES

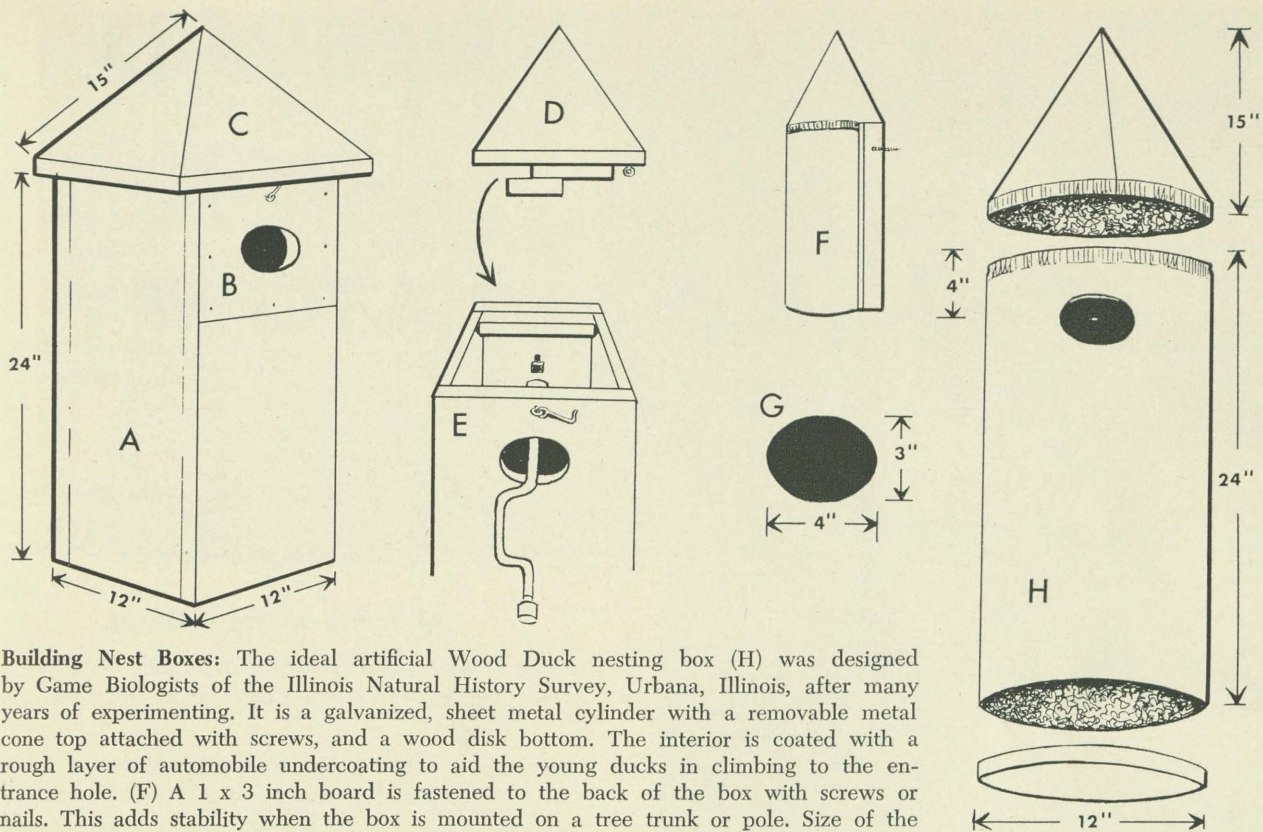


**Nesting Habits:** Starting in the latter part of February, and on through early April, the female Wood Duck, along with her more colorful mate, begin their annual search for a place to nest. They will readily accept either a natural cavity in a tree or a stump, or an artificial nesting box, if available. After selecting a nesting place the female proceeds to line the floor with down plucked from her breast, and begins egg laying. After the eggs are laid, an average of 8 to 15 eggs, and incubation begins, the male will desert his spouse leaving her the sole duty of hatching the eggs and caring for the young. The incubation period is from 28 to 30 days.

**Placing Nest Boxes:** Proper location is an all-important factor when putting up nesting boxes. Tree bordered lakes, ponds or streams, and swampy wood areas are all home for the Wood Duck. For nesting sites they prefer large trees with spreading branches, and like to fly through an open canopy of branches and leaves when going to their nests. They also like to perch on large horizontal limbs at or near their nesting place. Put nest boxes 10 to 25 feet up on tree trunks which are situated in the water, at the water's edge, or within 50 to 100 yards from water. Where heavy wave action and strong currents will not push them over, boxes can be placed on poles in the water. Heights of boxes when over water need be only a few feet. Depending upon the duck population of the locality, erect boxes 50 to 100 yards apart, at a rate of not over four per acre. Check and clean out boxes at the end of each nesting season, preferably by the next January. If you need advice on where to put up nest boxes contact your nearest Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Office, see page 3.

\*Sportsmen's Aid For Wood Ducks





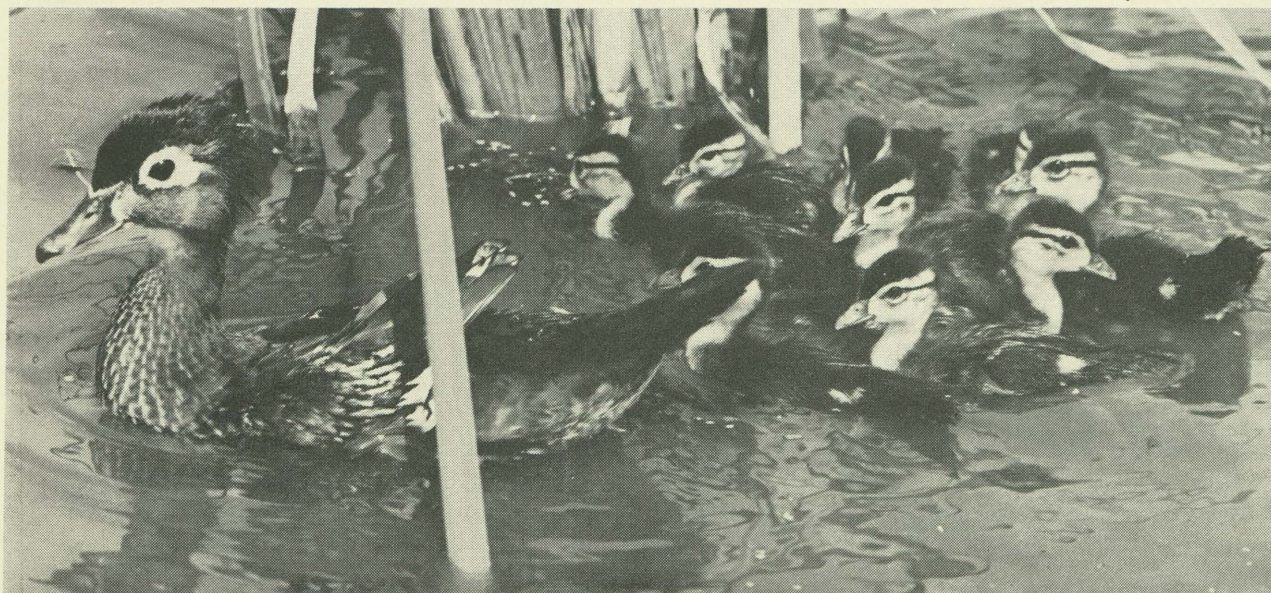
**Building Nest Boxes:** The ideal artificial Wood Duck nesting box (H) was designed by Game Biologists of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois, after many years of experimenting. It is a galvanized, sheet metal cylinder with a removable metal cone top attached with screws, and a wood disk bottom. The interior is coated with a rough layer of automobile undercoating to aid the young ducks in climbing to the entrance hole. (F) A 1 x 3 inch board is fastened to the back of the box with screws or nails. This adds stability when the box is mounted on a tree trunk or pole. Size of the entrance hole (G) conforms to the body of the female duck, and also keeps out Raccoons. Keep measurements exact as shown. (A) Illustrates an excellent nest box made of cypress lumber. A strip of hardware cloth nailed below the entrance hole, on the inside, gives the ducklings a foothold when ready to climb out. The pyramid shaped roof (C) should overhang about 6 inches at the front, 2 3/4 inches at the sides, and 1 1/2 inches at the back. It should be covered smoothly with thin sheet metal. (D) Shows method of attaching roof to box. Lip under at the back and lock with hook and eye fastener on the outside front. Area around the entrance hole should be covered with sheet metal (B) to repel Raccoons. To make it climbing-snake and squirrel proof it is necessary to cover the box completely with sheet metal. (E) Shows method of fastening to tree trunk or pole. Use 4 to 6 inches long lag screw. Screw down tightly with speed handle socket wrench. Boxes should be filled with a 3 inch layer of sawdust, wood chips or shavings.

### Building Wood Duck Nest Boxes

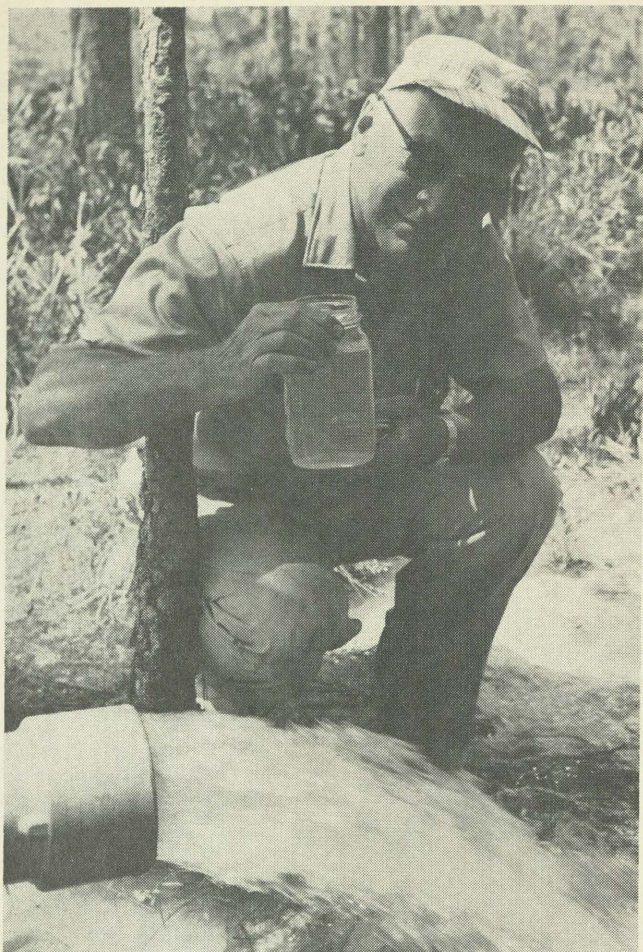
**The Young Wood Duck—**After hatching and as soon as their down is dry, usually about 24 hours, the young will leave the nest. Coaxed on by the mother, baby woodies will leap from the entrance of the nest, one by one, to the ground or water below.

Although some nests are as high up as 50 feet, the young Wood Ducks can make the leap without injury. Some nests are located as much as one-half mile from water, in which case the ducklings will follow the mother overland to the nearest water.

Photos By Karl Maslowski





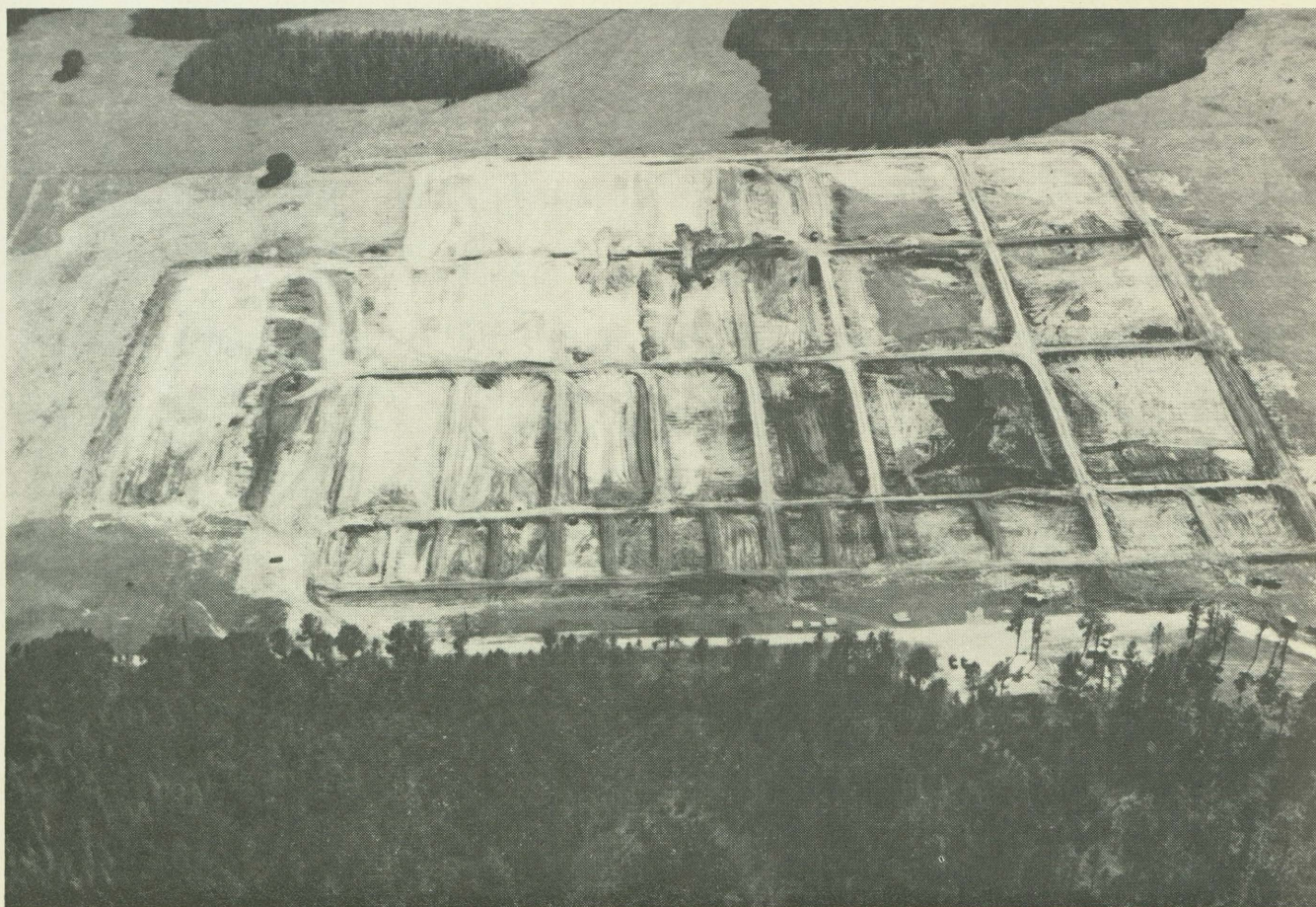


# **RICHLOAM FISH HATCHERY**

Florida's newest facility  
for the improvement  
of fresh water fishing

Photos By A. D. Aldrich

Water quantity and quality, left, were major considerations when selecting the new hatchery site. The aerial photo below shows holding and spawning ponds under construction last fall.







**G**REETINGS FOR THE New Year included an announcement by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission that the new Richloam Fish Hatchery had been completed. Located in the Withlacoochee State Forest, Sumter County, the new hatchery operations started during January with the first stock of brood bass.

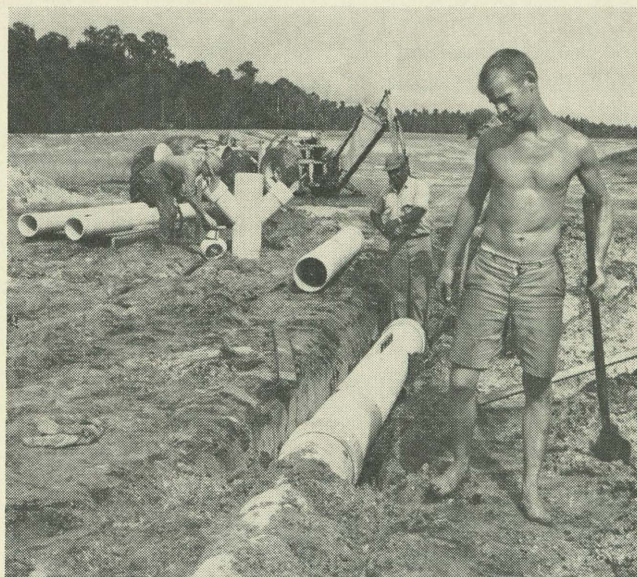
The Richloam Fish Hatchery, one of the most modern hatchery facilities in the nation, is capable of producing an estimated 1,250,000 fingerling fresh water fish a year. The sixty acre hatchery site includes a total of thirty six separate spawning and holding ponds, five buildings, two deep wells and thousands of feet of pipe for draining and filling the ponds. Future plans provide for an additional twelve ponds when needed.

The search for a fish hatchery site was started during 1964 and resulted in a final selection of the Richloam area. The selected site meets all requirements for ideal hatchery conditions in soil, elevation, water and transportation. The soil is excellent for hatchery purposes with sufficient clay to core all ponds allowing a minimum of seepage as well as plenty of rich top soil for topping.

The water quality and quantity is outstanding and the two deep wells are capable of providing 1,560 gallons of water per minute. The location of the hatchery will allow rapid transportation of fish to almost any area of the state as the hatchery is within minutes of a major highway network.

The entire hatchery project is financed by the fishing improvement program created through a one dollar increase in the cost of resident fishing licenses in 1963. The one dollar is set aside in a special fund to be used only for projects designed to improve Florida's fresh water fishing.

Construction of the new hatchery started in July 1965, and except for an occasional delay due



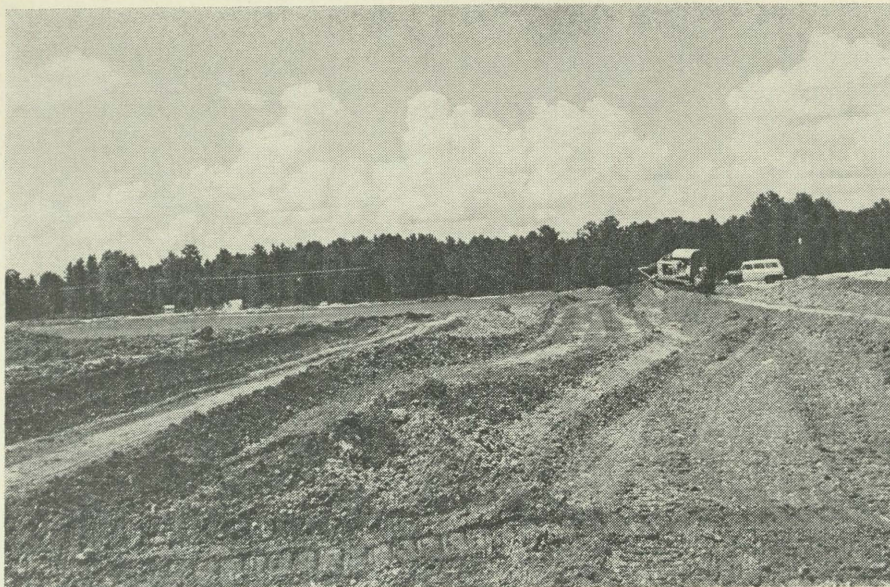
The Richloam Hatchery occupies 60 acres of forest land on what was once an air force target range. In addition to the construction of five buildings, water supply pipe lines were installed from two deep wells capable of supplying more than 1,500 gallons of water per minute.

to weather has proceeded ahead of schedule. Supervising the construction of the Richloam hatchery is A. D. Aldrich, former director of the Commission, who reports that not only is construction ahead of schedule but that the cost is below the anticipated construction expenditure of \$106,750.

The new fish hatchery replaces the hatchery located at Winter Haven. The older facility was not adequate to meet the demands for increased production. The Richloam hatchery is not limited to production but may also be used for fishery research. Florida has for many years needed a facility

*(Continued on next page)*





The 36 ponds cover a 21 acre area of excellent soil and clay mixture ideal for minimum seepage conditions. A complex of water controls provide the individual spawning and holding ponds with both filling and drainage lines.

*(Continued from preceding page)*

with drainable ponds to carry out certain research projects and any ponds not assigned for fish production may be put to research use.

The hatchery will be used to produce bass, shell-crackers, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish. At the present time Florida must obtain channel catfish fingerlings from out of state as existing hatcheries are unable to produce catfish. The Richloam facility will also be used to continue research with the exotic peacock bass which is presently limited to several restricted ponds in Dade County.

The Holt Fish Hatchery located in the Blackwater State Forest in northwest Florida is being expanded for increased production and will continue to be a major production site for game fish fingerlings to be stocked in the fresh waters of north Florida.

Information about the Richloam Fish Hatchery follows:

**Location:** Withlacoochee State Forest, Sumter County, five and one half miles south of State Road 50 near Tarrytown.

**Land Area:** Sixty acres obtained from the Florida Forest Service. Hatchery site is located on a former air force target range and contains a grassed area that may be used by small aircraft for limited fish transportation.

**Water Area:** Thirty-six separate spawning and holding ponds for a total of 21 acres of hatchery waters.

**Buildings:** Five buildings which includes 1 storage and warehouse, 1 office and fish hatchery laboratory, 1 tank house for holding fish prior to transportation and 2 residence buildings for hatchery manager and personnel.



**Water Quantity:** Two deep wells capable of supplying 1,560 gallons of water per minute.

**Water Quality:** Superior with only basic trace elements present.

**Cost:** Total estimated cost for hatchery construction and buildings \$150,000. Present expenditure for hatchery construction \$95,000.

**Financed:** The Richloam Fish Hatchery is financed by the fresh water fishermen of Florida through the Fishing Improvement Fund. This fund is maintained by one dollar from the sale of each three dollar resident fishing license and can be used only to improve Florida's fresh water fishing. ●



# BOATING

Despite the sometimes blustery weather, Florida visitors can enjoy numerous "late winter" boating excursions



By ELGIN WHITE

**T**HIS MONTH'S COLUMN is directed in the main to our millions of winter visitors who might be looking for some boating adventures while in our sunny clime.

February and March, though usually blustery and as fickle as a teen-ager switching singing idols, can also come up with some of the finest boating weather of the year . . . depending, of course, on where you are and what kind of boating action you're looking for.

One of my favorite cruising spots this time of the year is the Florida west coast, particularly around the Peace and Myakka rivers, which converge at Punta Gorda.

I took a cruise on these two rivers some years ago, and it was one of the most fascinating boating trips I have ever made in the state. Started the journey at a fine little fishing camp called Snook Haven, about six-seven miles east of Venice on the Myakka River. From there, we wound our way southwest along the Myakka through some absolutely unbelievably beautiful country until we reached Punta Gorda. From there, we took a crescent-shaped turn back to the northeast and journeyed up to Arcadia on the equally scenic Peace River. It wasn't a long jaunt, only about 60 miles, but a prettier boat cruise you will never take anywhere at any time.

Another cruise route our visitors might want to take is the run through Florida's central chain 'o lakes. This journey is somewhat longer than the Peace-Myakka run, but just as scenic and fascinating. A good starting point for this one is at Welaka on the St. Johns River, just south of Palatka.

From this starting point, you turn westward into the Oklawaha River and follow that snake-like stream, complete in its primeval splendor, all the way to the junction with the Silver River, flowing eastward from world famous Silver Springs.

At the confluence of the Silver and Oklawaha rivers, you continue southward on the Oklawaha to

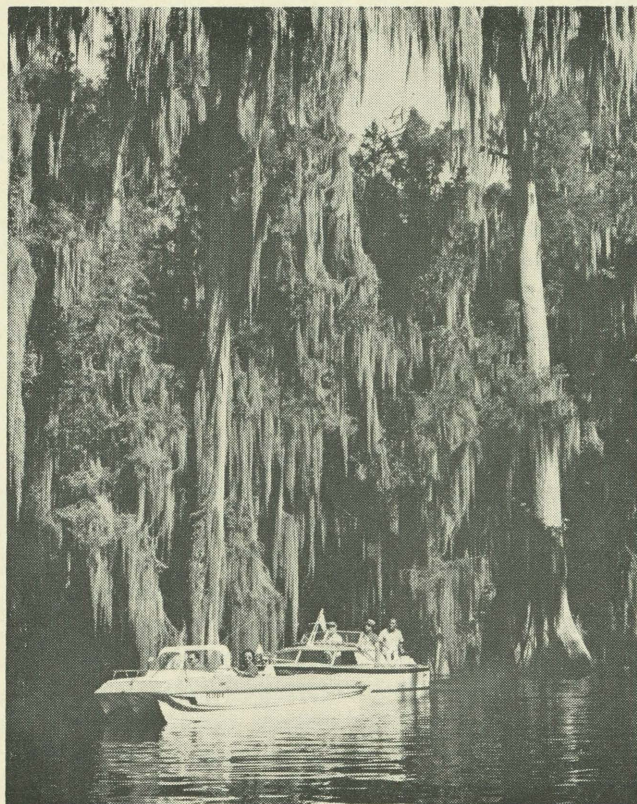
Lake Griffin, where many over-night fishing camps and lodges are available.

From Lake Griffin you move through Haines Creek (or canal) and the Burrell lock to Lake Eustis. From this smaller lake you pass through the fantastic Dora Canal, called the "most beautiful boating mile in the world," into Lake Dora and the picturesque town of Mt. Dora.

This in itself is a magnificent cruise, but you can continue farther south until you reach Winter Garden, which is as far as you can go without pulling out and moving overland to other navigable waters.

Another February cruise that might thrill the more adventurous would be from Ft. Myers on the lower West Coast down through the maze of greenery called the Ten Thousand Islands to Naples . . . from there to small but picturesque and ro-

*(Continued on next page)*



Cruising central Florida's chain-o-lakes means a run through the Dora Canal, called by many the "most beautiful boating mile in the world."



(continued from preceding page)

mantic Everglades City, and from there out into the Gulf of Mexico to the entrance of Little Shark River, which will take you into Whitewater Bay and on into Flamingo on the very southern tip of the Florida peninsula.

This is wild country. And you have to have the available U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey charts to make this journey. These charts are available at any marine supply shop or marina, and don't try to make this trip without them. You'll wind up cruising around those Ten Thousand Islands six years from now, or bashed up on an oyster bar somewhere in the depths of the Everglades. There aren't any Indians up in there to pull you free, either . . . only alligators, and unless you have a special rapport with these throw-backs to the Neanderthal age . . . get those charts!

Though in February the weather along the northern Florida sections can get a bit on the chilly side, there are many days when the atmosphere is as warm as a day in May.

When these days occur, and they are quite frequent, you might want to give thought to a cruise down Florida's famous Intracoastal Waterway from Fernandina to St. Augustine. Again, this is not a lengthy journey, but one that is completely different, in all probability, than any you may have made before. On this cruise, you can visit some of Florida's famous historical attractions, merely by pulling in off the river or canal.

For example . . . your starting point in Fernandina will offer such historic spots as old Fort Clinch, Fort George Island, the old Kingley plantation, and many other sights . . . particularly the old Palace Saloon, which is in its original format from the days in the 1800's when Fernandina was a brawling sea-port town.

Just south of all this antiquity, on the St. Johns River, is reconstructed Fort Caroline, where beleaguered French Huguenots stood off Spaniards, Indians and pirates and brigands for years before the original fortress was destroyed by a storm in 1565, which was a little while back. The reconstructed fort has been carefully built, following the designs of the famous French artist LeMoyne, who lived at the fort during the period of French occupation.

Just east of Fort Caroline is the marker commemorating the landing on the river of Jean Ribault, famous French Huguenot who had a hand in establishing Fort Caroline.

From this point southward, you'll pass the famous aircraft carriers based at Mayport, then move down the intracoastal to St. Augustine, where a tie-up at the city docks there puts you within hoofing distance of all the ancient attractions of that historic city.

Still another cruise that features history is from

the small city of Apalachicola on the northwest Gulf coast some 75 miles west of Tallahassee through the intracoastal to Pensacola, where the Spanish explorers were pretty big operators.

Apalachicola itself is most picturesque. It is a small fishing village, almost unchanged from the days in the early 1800's when it was one of the most active ports in America, hauling lumber and cotton to steamboats waiting to take this produce to all parts of the world.

"Apalach" faded into insignificance, however, with the emergence of larger ports, such as Mobile and New Orleans, and the increase of rail traffic going east and west, plus the subsequent decline of King Cotton. It is still as it was, with few modern additions, and is as charming a town anyone can visit anywhere in the world.

From Apalachicola westward the intracoastal canal takes you to Panama City, the thriving summer resort town that is a mecca for land-locked sun seekers every year. Through Panama City on to Destin, a world-famous fishing town, old Fort Walton, stomping grounds of the infamous pirate Billy Bowlegs, and into Pensacola, another historic city of Florida. As a matter of fact, Pensacola civic leaders will point to evidence that this fine port city was built before St. Augustine. Only trouble was, the non-thinking Spanish conquistadores built the original settlement on the sand spit called Santa Rosa island and a hurricane blew the village into Pensacola Bay way back around 1569. The city was rebuilt some years later on the land side where it now is mushrooming into one of the largest cities in the south. Perhaps the best cruise for our winter visitors, and natives alike for that matter, is through the Florida Keys. It would take this entire edition to explain in best detail all the attractions of cruising through the Keys, but it is a trip that no boatman will ever forget. Sometimes in February the weather can kick up a bit,



There are many magnificent marinas along the entire water route when cruising through the Florida Keys.



and cruising the rather open waters of the Keys would be inadvisable, but nine days out of ten you can make it with no trouble.

And the sights to see as you meander through those islands are almost indescribable. Start at Key Largo and cruise on down to Key West. There is no shortage of facilities, accommodations and attractions and it is a trip you'll never forget.

This is merely a short round-up of some boating trips Florida visitors might want to make while in our sunshine for the winter months. The author will be happy to furnish additional, more detailed information upon request. Simply write. I don't mind.

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WITH AMERICANS GOING completely "a-go-go" over boating these days, many firms are coming out with new boating togs that are not only stylish but most utilitarian.

Tom McKevitt, director of marketing for Style-Crafters, Inc., sent some information and photographs about the South Carolina firm's newest boating togs, and there is just as much emphasis on clothing for the ladies as for the skippers.

The new sports togs feature everything from water-resistant shorts and skirts to heavy weather rain gear, and most of them are as colorful as the rainbow. These clothes are probably in your favorite store or marine supply shop right now. Look 'em over . . . bet there's something the little lady will want there . . . for both of you.

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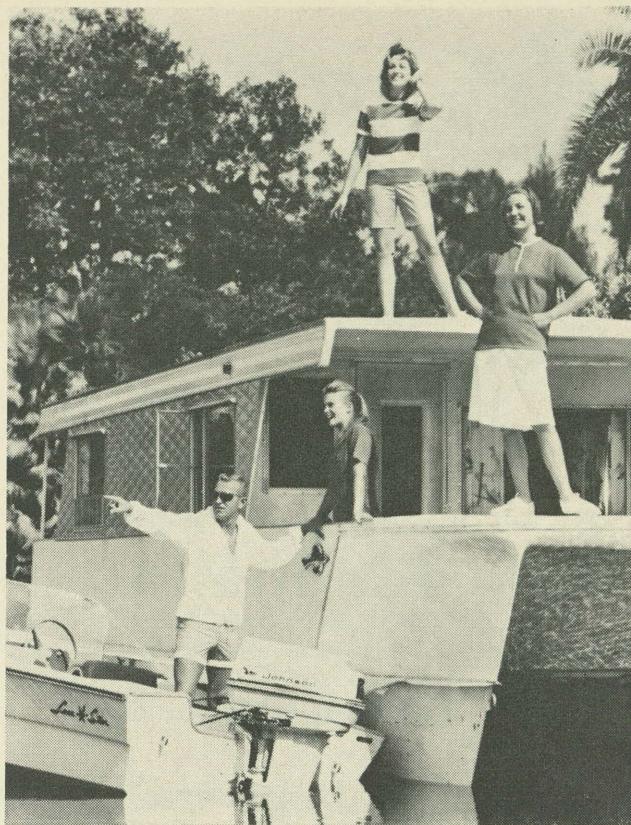
Most boating fans know, Bob Brewster of Mercury motors writes me, that the typical pleasure powerboats of today have planing hulls which means they skim, or plane, over the water's surface.

However, there are other type hulls in general use. Here's some information which can increase your knowledge and enjoyment of boating.

Rowboats, sailboats, heavy commercial craft and all large ships float by settling into the water until they have displaced a volume of water equal to the weight of the boat. These are called displacement hulls.

When such boats are in motion, their bows push the water aside. Understandably, there's a limit to how fast something as heavy as water can be pushed aside and drawn back again.

From experience, designers of displacement hulls know that such a boat cannot be pushed faster than about one-and-six-tenths times the square root of the waterline length. Now, figure that one out, you "new math" advocates! Thus, a 25-foot displacement hull has a top speed limit of around eight knots, and an 80-footer could be driven at 14.5 knots. I know this to be a fact, 'cause back in World War II when I was in the Coast Guard, we had a cou-



Skipper and First Mate matching togs are the latest styles in 1966 sports wear for the boating bunch.

ple of those 80-foot wooden sub chasers running around in the Gulf after German U-boats, and on one occasion the depth charge was set extremely high, and with the clinker going about 15 knots, the charge went off and shattered the stern into so many toothpicks before she could get out of range. She was practically having a hand-to-hand engagement with that sub, which was just under the surface of the water on a crash dive when the 80 footer came up on her.

Anyhow, when a displacement hull reaches its maximum or critical speed, adding power won't make it go any faster. Instead, the stern "squats" and the water flow past the hull becomes increasingly turbulent. Contained application of power will cause the boat to do unpredictable and dangerous things, just as early jet fighters with straight wings became uncontrollable when they broke the sound barrier.

Designers then turn to the planing hull to get speed combined with compactness. The bottom of such a hull is made to cause the boat to lift into the water's surface. The stern has a wide, sharp-edged transom which readily "let's go" of rushing water. It can easily and efficiently reach the 20 to 40 m.p.h. speeds we like.

So, forget about hauling a big motor around to put on a row boat or similarly designed craft. It won't go any faster, and you'll be wasting an awful lot of gasoline and horsepower. ●



# Spring Fishing For The Big Ones



Where else but Florida will you find a pretty girl who likes to go bass fishing? The pert miss is Jeanne DeQuine of Leesburg, who reigns in the Sunshine State as "Miss Florida Outdoors." She's the outdoor type and for proof Jeanne offers this lunker bass she caught at Lake Eloise.

**A**NYONE WHO HAS EVER flipped a bail or thumbed a casting reel for bigmouth bass knows that a lure chunked into a lake or river in Florida stands a much better chance for a record bass than any other place in the nation.

Early spring is the time of the year to catch your big bass and the reason for this is that the bass are on the beds. The female has deposited her roe in a place that has been fanned clean of debris, and after papa bass has done his biological trick he then stands guard over the bed to see to it that nothing disturbs the spawn.

It is a strange fact though, that after the spawn has hatched and the young fry are swimming around old papa bass turns on his kids and satisfies his hunger by eating his family.

The angler who locates the beds is lucky indeed. So many of Florida's lakes are dark water that it is hard to see well enough to pinpoint the fanned out areas where the beds are. The clear rivers make it easy to see where to cast and have your lure come across the beds.

The choice of lures to use during the bedding season is rather unimportant as the bass are in a fighting mood and will hit any strange object that comes over or close to the bed they are guarding.

The greatest angling thrill is to see a golden colored mass rise from underneath the dark water and hit a topwater plug. Big bass do not create a terrific strike as is generally believed—they ease up to the plug and suck it into their mouth quietly and with a swirl take it below the surface. This is why the angler should strike and strike hard in order to sink the barbed hooks into the jaws of the bass because when old bronze back feels the hard object in his mouth he is going to clear the water with but one thought in mind—to rid himself of this foreign object by shaking his head so hard that his gill covers sound like castanets.

For those anglers who would like to have a go at the big ones from now until the first of May, Florida fishing experts suggest that you equip your tackle box with a variety of plugs. For underwater lures the biggest spoon-type with a **PURPLE** plastic worm on its single hook is one of the best to be found.

There are over 30,000 lakes in Florida but not all of them are noted for really big bass. Here are just a few that definitely contain he-man, pot-gutted grandpas: Lake Tarpon, Talsa-Apopka, Lake George, Cypress Lake, Lake Rosalie, Orange Lake, Withlacoochee River and the St. Johns River.

Good Chunkin' ●



A "court jester's" spoof of future  
waterfowl hunting regulations



## Waterfowl Hunting Rules For 1970?

Author Unknown

### THE SEASON

Opening September 2nd at 10:14 A.M.

Closing September 16th at 8:14 A.M.

Shooting will be allowed from 10:14 until noon on every other day during the season providing the wind velocity does not exceed 4 mph.

### LIMITS

Bag limits are simplified this year. Two female coots may be taken or one male coot and one female sawbill. Hunters who have not taken one day's limit as explained above and after making a sworn statement to that effect in Federal Court may apply for a permit to kill one Spoonbill. Hunters will be notified when the Spoonbill quota is reached in each principal flyway. Due to the increase in Mallard ducks, one may be killed during the season, as 37 million were counted in Saskatchewan compared to a mere 31 million in Ontario. The hunter must not kill an Ontario Mallard. All Ontario Mallards have slightly jaundiced eyeballs which will be readily observed by watchful hunters. When a legal Mallard is killed it must be taken immediately to the capital of the state in which you live for proper identification by the State Conservation Corps who will also provide the picking and cleaning permit (\$2).

### GEESE

No species of geese can be taken except in Leap Year. Shooting will be allowed on the first Monday following the second Wednesday of November from noon until 2 p.m. if the cloud cover does not exceed 7/10ths of the sky.

### BLINDS and CLOTHING

A blind will consist of three branches from local trees or bushes and the butt end may be no larger than the hunter's thumb. Club blinds, wherein members rotate between blinds, must use the thumb of the smallest member for measurement of all blinds. Blinds must be a minimum of 41 yards from any vegetation.

As in recent years, all wearing apparel (boots, pants, coat, gloves) must be either Highway Yel-

low, Hawaiian Blue or Stop-light Red. The Official Government "Keep 'em Flying" cap with the battery operated blinker light on the bill is mandatory and may be purchased at any post office.

Wardens have been instructed to search hunters for the three spare batteries which are also mandatory because of the "dead battery" excuses of last year.

### GUNS and AMMUNITION

All gauges up to and including 28 gauge. Any length barrel. Stocks, however, may not exceed 3 inches in length.

### CALLING REGULATIONS

Manufactured duck calls, mouth actuated, are illegal again this year. Due to the high degree of proficiency attained by a number of hunters in imitating ducks by voice alone it is necessary to place some minor restrictions on this activity. Any hunter or guide or pusher who shall endeavor to attract wildfowl by emitting misleading sounds by mouth must hold in his oral cavity not less than two bronze ball bearings while so doing. To avoid hardship, should either or both balls be spit out or swallowed during the shoot, continued calling by mouth will be considered legal if each imitated utterance is interspersed with the cry "Powder River" uttered in the same degree of sound intensity.

### THE HUNTER-WARDEN RELATIONSHIP

Remember that the warden is your friend! This year, to promote fellowship, you need not call state wardens "Sir." Only the Federal wardens are thus addressed (PL 1093-Sec. A-506). You will, of course, share your refreshments with these jolly fellows so that they may, in a more informal atmosphere, check your license, your citizenship papers, Wassermann rating, certified net worth, fingerprints, church affiliation, political donations and I.Q.

### IN CONCLUSION

When in doubt about regulations, be sure and take your lawyer to the blinds with you. ●



## CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

the growing necessity for youth conservation education in general."

An extensive folder of conservation education materials is being prepared for the clubs by Jim McMahon, Regional Coordinator for the Fourth District. This will contain sample copies of publications available through various conservation agencies and should prove to be a valuable aid to the club advisors in obtaining educational materials for their members.

The Youth Conservation League is looking for organizations and individuals who are interested in working with or establishing a youth conservation club. Details can be obtained from Bob Routa, Chairman, Adult Advisory Council, Inc., 3620 S. W. Archer Rd., Gainesville, Fla.

### Gulf Coast Beaches

WHY ARE THE BEACHES on the northern Florida coast whiter than those on the southern coasts?

Paul H. Unverzagt, park attendant at John C. Beasley State Park, near Fort Walton Beach, was asked this question by tourists so many times he decided to find out the answer.

Unverzagt said the University of Miami Marine Laboratory explained to him that the northern beaches are composed of a white quartz sand and only small amounts of other materials.

The Laboratory said that the southern beaches also contain quartz sand, but the sand is mixed with tiny fragments of sea shells and coral.

The park attendant said he was told that the shell fragments were mainly responsible for a brownish coloration to the south Florida beaches.

A Laboratory survey found that dead shells were extremely scarce on northwestern Florida beaches. This was attributed to the steeper

slope offshore, which prevents shells from being washed onto the beach.

The report pointed out that the offshore slope in the southern areas is more gradual and shells are more easily moved up on the beach by wave action.

John C. Beasley State Park is located in the center of the 100-mile "Miracle Strip" of beautiful white sand beaches on the Gulf of Mexico along the northwestern edge of the State.

The 23-acre park boasts some 1,000 feet of snow-white beach, as well as a combination picnic-rest-room shelter and six covered picnic tables.

### Keys Refuge Booklet

A NEW PUBLICATION describing the refuges of the Florida Keys has been produced by the Department of the Interior. The three refuges discussed in the leaflet are National Key Deer Refuge, Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge, and the Key West National Wildlife Refuge. The leaflet features a cover by Fish and Wildlife Service artist Bob Hines.

The eight-page publication also includes photographs of Key deer, great white heron, and typical refuge habitat, plus a list of other National Wildlife Refuges in Florida. Refuge Leaflet 518 is for sale at 10¢ a copy by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

### Conservation Directory

ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL publications in the conservation field has just come off press. Published each year by the National Wildlife Federation as one of its many conservation education activities, the 1966 CONSERVATION DIRECTORY marks the eleventh annual edition of the popular reference booklet.

Completely revised and updated the new CONSERVATION DI-



**THE WINNER**—Delores Martin, wife of world famous angler Roy Martin, Panama City Beach, Fla., has scored again! In the recent World Series of Fresh Water Fishing held in Greenville, Texas, Mrs. Martin took top honors among the women entered, for the second time since the famous contest has been going on. The 1960 title was won by Delores, and her repeat performance last fall made her the only person, male or female, to take the title twice. Delores tallied 333 angling points to win the title over Mrs. George Cramer, of Illinois.

RECTORY lists the names, addresses and phone numbers of more than 1,000 governmental agencies and citizen organizations involved in natural resource use and management. It includes information on 36 U. S. Government agencies; 23 international, national and interstate commissions; 11 international organizations; 129 national organizations; 26 regional organizations; 56 colleges and universities; hundreds of government agencies and citizen groups in the 50 states; and 38 Canadian government agencies and private organizations. The Directory lists the names of more than 6,000 persons serving conservation in both public and private capacities.

"We believe," states Federation president Judge Louis D. McGregor, Flint, Mich., "this publication fills an important need—



one of improving public awareness and communication with the many government agencies and private organizations presently involved in America's conservation effort. Only through the principle of working together can conservation issues be resolved in the best public interest."

Copies of the 1966 CONSERVATION DIRECTORY may be obtained at a price of \$1.00 each from the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

### Primitive Camping Area

THE FLORIDA PARK Board recently opened its first primitive camping area for use by the general public at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring.

State Parks Director Bill Miller said the 10 primitive sites at the 3,800-acre park were in answer to recent public demand for natural camping areas in the state park system.

Several state parks currently offer primitive camping sites for use by youth groups such as the Boy Scouts, Miller said. However, the Highlands Hammock natural sites are the first for general use.

Miller noted that only pit latrines and hand-pumped water can be found at these sites. Standard camping sites are available in another area of the park, which provide electricity, tables and grills, and restrooms equipped with hot and cold water, showers, toilets, lavatories and laundry tubs.

Plans are to expand the area to 20 sites if the experiment is successful.

The sites are easily accessible by car but are situated wider apart than the usual camp sites.

The semi-tropical park covers a lush hammock and dense woodlands as well as acres of cypress swamp abounding with wildlife.

## ELEMENTS OF THE EARTH

*(Continued from page 5)*

outboard motor. It is being proven more and more that where the esthetic urge interferes with comforts, it is easy to satisfy.

The urgency to save wild rivers is now being touted and acclaimed as one of the last sports of the dyed-in-the-wool outdoorsman. Yet I find in the Great Lakes States that the most avid of wild river enthusiasts would rather remain in the amateur class than rise to the craftsmanship that canoeing deserves. True craftsmanship with a canoe dictates poling upstream as well as paddling down, and a good boat handler does not paddle wildly through shallow rocky stretches; he snubs his craft downstream a little at a time with a pole. I have yet to see a modern wild river enthusiast who could buck upstream rapids with a pole.

Because they refuse the challenge of becoming master craftsmen, there must be ingress roads to take out their plunder, and so they become traitors to their wilderness idealisms.

And so, we have today a rapidly increasing number of outdoor fadists with a myriad of interests. A few still want the raw experience of roughing it, but many others first of all want conveni-

ences, security and society. Those involved in recreational research seem more interested in what people want than why they want it. The question of why people want certain things is far more intriguing, and more important. No doubt people who insist on conveniences and society while camping place a high priority on them in their daily living. Comforts are of more importance than preserving natural beauty. It is logical to ask then, are these people willing to place all resources in jeopardy by demanding conveniences regardless of the drain or abuse on resources? I feel that they are willing to do so. They are either ignorant or will not conform to the limits which can be placed on resources without damaging them. Their recreational attitudes reflect their attitudes toward the use of all resources.

There is so much written today about man's desire to commune with nature, to be alone, to enjoy solitude; and if given a chance, to revel in the primitive esthetics of nature. This is wishful thinking and being proven so as recreational pressures increase. People apparently are looking for a change from the humdrum of daily living, but they are not looking for nature in the raw or even a parboiled version.

Has security in all forms become such a national fetish that it now reflects in the various forms and attitudes of recreation? Are we shying away from risks, challenges, self-reliance and the ability to walk alone? I think that we are, and let it be remembered that the strength of a nation is only as great as the strength of each individual citizen. Recreation is showing a trend in national character for better or for worse. What people want is not so important in the long run as why they want it, especially when it points to the destruction they are willing to inflict to obtain their ease and security.—●

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### NATURE NOTES

Reindeer are unlike other members of the deer family in that both sexes possess antlers.

\* \* \*

When a crocodile or turtle dives under water, it ceases to breathe and holds its breath until it reaches the surface again.

\* \* \*

Experiments indicate that bees recognize honey-yielding flowers first by color and secondly by scent.

\* \* \*

Snakes do not have eyelids. Even when asleep, a snake's eyes are wide open.



# Wildlife Officer Law Enforcement Report

## Statewide Arrests For 1965

By **BRANTLEY GOODSON, Chief**

Law Enforcement Division

FLORIDA WILDLIFE OFFICERS chalked up more than 5,000 arrests, during 1965, enforcing the fresh water fishing, hunting, and boating laws, under the jurisdiction of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

As 1965 came to a close, nearly one-third of the

5,347 cases were still pending action in the county courts. More than 3,000 cases reached final disposition as "convictions," with an average sentence of \$57.25 fine by the county judges.

Seven convictions carried jail sentences ranging from overnight to five months duration.

Hunting Violations	Arrests
Hunting License & Management Area Permits .....	395
Night Hunting, Gun and Light .....	493
Illegal Deer or Turkey Hunting .....	136
Illegal Quail or Squirrel Hunting .....	44
Alligator Hunting, or Possession of Hides .....	79
Migratory Bird or Waterfowl .....	427
Other (guns in refuges, unplugged guns, etc.) .....	375
<b>Fishing Violations</b>	
Fishing License .....	1,895
Illegal Transportation, Fresh Water Fish .....	6
Illegal Taking of Fresh Water Fish .....	138
Over the Bag Limit .....	99
<b>Boating Safety Violations</b>	
Equipment .....	1,124
Registration .....	91
Operation .....	45
<b>Total Arrests</b> .....	<b>5,347</b>

**Total cases tried, convictions\*** ..... **3,268**

**Total cases pending (Dec. 31, 1965)** ..... **1,378**

**Dismissals and Acquittals\*\*** ..... **701**

\*Settled in court by plea of guilty, or convicted by jury trial.

\*\*Several cases bound over to Federal Court for disposition; in several instances the cases represent juvenile arrests, and these minors were released to the parents and required to write a theme on conservation.

**Total Amount of Fines** ..... **\$187,095.50**

**Average Amount of Fine Per Conviction** ..... **57.25**



FOR THAT  
BIG ONE -



- THAT  
DIDN'T  
GET AWAY

## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

..... 8 pounds or larger

#### CHAIN PICKEREL

..... 4 pounds or larger

#### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

..... 1 1/2 pounds or larger

#### SHELLCRACKER

..... 2 pounds or larger

#### BLACK CRAPPIE

..... 2 pounds or larger

#### RED BREAST

..... 1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK





Majestic scenery is standard fare when cruising the Peace and Myakka Rivers. — F.S.N.B. Photo

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